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The Danger In Over Emphasizing Quality

By W. C. Coffey

Technically, quality as applied to live stock, is a narrow term meaning freedom from coarseness. The buyer for the packer inspecting lambs for slaughter looks for refined head features, fine bone, smooth, thin pelt and when he finds all of these combined in the same animal he has what he calls a lamb of quality. If, in addition, the lamb is fat, he has found an animal of high killing quality, that is, it will kill a high percentage of carcass to live weight.

Breeders of purebred live stock are continually talking about quality. What do they mean? Do they have the same conception of it as does the buyer for the packer? To a certain extent, yes, but as a rule their conception includes more. With them quality is freedom from coarseness plus symmetry or balance, and carriage or style. They are just as quick to denounce a badly proportioned animal or one with crooked legs and low carriage of head as being deficient in quality as one that is coarse in head and bone. To them, then, quality is the stamp of breediness, the surety that the animal is not only bred pure but aristocratically bred. The skill of the fitter is tested by his ability to enhance quality. Therefore, quality to the purebred animal is somewhat as is polish to the diamond.

Breeders of purebred live stock are men of ideals whose eyes are trained to make close discriminations. They are always on the lookout for the animal that is balanced, stylish and bears no resemblance to coarseness, a combination that so many times is perfect in the undersized animal with too fine a bone. No wonder then that they are tempted to make a fetish of quality, and it becomes a fetish pure and simple when it is emphasized to the point of

producing over-refined animals. When this happens, the true purpose of quality is misconceived and breeders are in great danger of undermining the secure foundation upon which their breed should rest. For with over-refinement go loss of size, loss of hardiness, many times loss in fecundity, and loss in power to make the best use of feed.

Time and time again breeders have let quality run away with them. Bakewell was no exception to this statement. That he went too far in sacri-

culinity in selecting rams for stud purposes.

With American sheep breeders generally, quality as characterized by refinement of head features, and fineness of bone, is easily obtained. A veteran breeder of New York state once told the writer that he had to guard against too fine bone constantly and after twenty-five years experience in sheep breeding in Indiana and Illinois, I can say that my experience is identical to his. I shall never forget a speech made



Hampshire Ram Lambs of J. Nebeker & Son, Laketown, Utah

ficing fecundity and hardiness in his sheep is common knowledge. But he so impressed his fellow breeders that they, too, tried out the Bakewell blood largely for the sake of refinement, early maturity, and easy keeping qualities. Many were benefited, but most of them came to realize that there was something in the old stock, coarse though it was, that they dared not entirely replace. In this experience, British sheep breeders seemingly learned their lesson well, for they emphasize substance and extreme mas-

to the ringside at the Ohio state fair in 1911 by the late John Campbell, the veteran Shropshire breeder of Ontario. He had just passed on the two-year-old Shropshire rams. He left at the foot of the class a beautiful ram but he was small. Campbell directed his remarks to this ram first and in substance said: "Gentlemen, this is a beautiful little ram, anybody can breed a good little sheep but it takes a master to breed a good big one." I was so impressed by what he said that I resolved to see his flock. When I saw

his breeding ewes, I understood why he had long been in the forefront as a breeder. He had mastered the difficult task of combining quality with well-balanced form, size, and ruggedness of constitution.

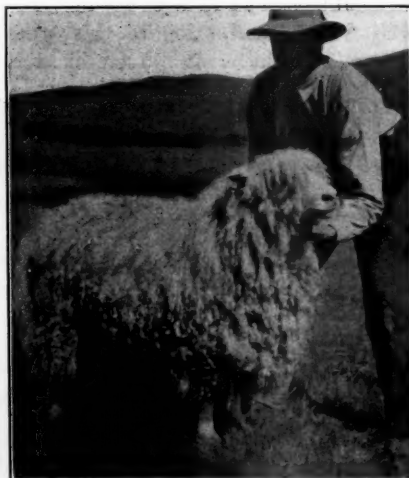
In this country, breeders of Poland China swine lost their leadership in swine production largely through over emphasis on quality and fancy points. There was a time when it was useless to drive a Poland China into the ring if it did not present the maximum of tidiness, and carry six white points, i. e., white hair on snout, legs, and tail. What was the result? We all know. Loss of size, hardiness, and fecundity. The last mentioned became so pronounced that some wag took license to get off a ridiculous joke on the breed by saying that a Poland China sow in Ohio cast an afterbirth without giving birth to as much as one pig. Poland China breeders finally awoke to their mistakes—they are breeding now along sane lines and are developing grand hogs.

Only a few days ago a man who knows the swine situation well said that in his opinion, swine breeders are emphasizing greater size than they were ten or fifteen years ago. He continued: "I do not believe we see as many good hogs at our shows as we used to (meaning symmetrical, stylish specimens with outstanding quality), but I know that our hogs in general are better than they used to be." What a splendid compliment that, to the hog breeders of America.

But the quality-fetish is a Pied Piper which not only sheep and swine breeders, but cattle and horse breeders as well, have danced after. For a time all has gone well, but eventually the mistake is sure to loom up too large to be covered and there is nothing to do but to right about face or quit.

A certain degree of refinement we need in our breeding sheep and we will have enough of it. There is absolutely no call for concern on this point. Nine out of ten breeders of purebreds have no use for coarse "Elephantine" specimens of their breed. In this no one would disagree with them. But every breeder should see

to it that while he is maintaining quality, he is also maintaining size, stamina, fleece qualities, and the ability to turn feed into meat and wool rapidly. If to retain these things somewhat larger ears, stronger face features, in sum, if a tinge of coarseness must be tolerated, please bear in mind that vigor, and the power of rapid growth are worth more to the man who produces lambs for the market than the small margin that fine-boned lambs will command over lambs with a trifle less refinement. Some of us breed to win in the show ring, it is true, and here is where extreme quality makes its strongest appeal, but we will fail if we do not produce the kind of sheep that will make money for the



A Wood Live Stock Co. Lincoln Used For Cross-Breeding

commercial grower, for some day he will quit us and it will take a long time to persuade him to come back.

SOME SHEEP SELLING

Several bands of ewes have recently been sold in southern Idaho, and a large number are offered for sale. The prevailing price is about \$16 for good young crossbred ewes with forest reserve right. Older ewes are being offered at considerably lower prices, as the buyers figure they have a chance to eventually win out with a yearling or two-year-old even if there should be a further decline in prices. E. R. M.

THE WORLD'S WOOL SUPPLY

The most interesting subject for discussion now to sheepmen and wool manufacturers is the supply of wool in the world available for consumption during 1919. During the war a great deal of misinformation was given out on the wool stocks, the public being led to believe that there was an acute shortage of wool. Throughout the entire war the National Wool Growers Association took the position that the world's wool supply was adequate for all of its needs and that there was no reason for unusual conservation of wool. Now that the war is over it develops that our position in this matter was the correct one.

The Foreign Wool War Service Committee of the United States War Industries Board on January 16 issued the following statement:

"At a recent meeting of the Foreign Wool War Service Committee, Mr. A. M. Patterson, recently returned from abroad, reported as follows: 'In regard to the stock of wools on hand and the supplies for the future from Australia, New Zealand and the Cape, the figures derived from various sources, some of which are official and some are merely estimates, indicate that the total carry over from the 1917 clip plus the clip for 1918, which has already been purchased by the British government, and that for 1919, which the government has contracted to purchase, amount to somewhat over 8,000,000 bales. In making this estimate the Australian and New Zealand clips have been taken at a very conservative figure, as a large increase is expected in the 1918 clip and a still further increase in 1919. This wool is directly controlled by the British government with the exception of Cape wools, only a part of which have been acquired, and it is not yet known whether the remainder will be acquired or will be left in the hands of the growers to be disposed of through ordinary channels.'"

Mr. Patterson was chairman of the Textile Alliance and has been abroad for the past six or eight months to make arrangements for importation of

foreign wool for the Quartermasters Department. No doubt in presenting the foregoing statement he has done so in a conscientious manner, but we believe that his statement is so greatly at variance with the facts that we hasten to set forth here our views in the matter in order that wool growers may not be unduly alarmed about this surfeit of wool. Mr. Patterson sets forth that the total carry over of 1917 plus the clips of 1918 and 1919 of South Africa, New Zealand, and Australia, amount to something over 8,000,000 bales of wool, which would be equal to 2,720,000,000 pounds in these three countries alone. It is our judgment that the available stocks in these three countries, including the clip of 1919, will not exceed 4,000,000 bales. It is very easy to prove that Mr. Patterson's 8,000,000-bale estimate is wrong, for if no wool had been used at all from these countries during the years in question, their total production would have been less than 8,000,000 bales. In 1917, at the close of the wool year, there remained in Australia unexported, 593,864 bales. The total clips of Australia and New Zealand in 1918 and 1919 amount to 4,536,000 bales. The total clip of South Africa in 1917, 1918 and 1919 amounts to 1,650,000 bales, giving a total of 6,779,864 bales produced in the countries mentioned by Mr. Patterson during these years, which is considerably less than the number of bales he says are now on hand. But the consumption of these wools during the war has been very heavy. In the countries mentioned the wool year closes on June 30. On June 30, 1918, there remained unexported in South Africa 160,000 bales; in Australia, 1,200,000 bales; and in New Zealand, 475,000 bales, making a total in these countries of 1,835,000 bales. To that we would have to add the clip of 1919, which would bring us up to June 30, 1919, with a total available supply of wool of 4,453,000 bales. From this we would have to deduct the amount of wool consumed by Great Britain and other countries, which originated in the countries under review, from June 30, 1918, to December 30, 1918, which would be 1,-

300,000 bales. Therefore, on January 1 of this year instead of there having been 8,000,000 bales of wool available from these countries, including the 1919 clip, there must have been 3,150,000 bales. It is our judgment that this is about the amount of wool on hand at that date, instead of 8,000,000 bales. This supply is larger than normal, but of course there is always available from these countries a large amount of wool in stock at any season of the year and when this normal supply is deducted from the actual supply it will be found that Great Britain will have some 2,000,000 bales more wool on hand from these countries than is normal at that particular season. These

Great Britain for every year since 1913. While these imports show some decline in the last two or three years, yet we are struck with the fact that even in 1918 Great Britain was importing within 30 per cent of her normal supply of wool. Also we are today in receipt of communications from London showing that the stocks of wool in Great Britain are very greatly below normal and that even now after the war is closed, the civilian population is not being allowed an adequate supply of wool. The wool stocks that exist are in Australasia, and until Great Britain can get them home, her people will actually be short of wool.

The National Wool Growers Asso-



Helen Lowry of California and Some Orphan Lambs She is Raising

bales weigh about 340 pounds, so if the surplus is approximately 680,000,000 pounds instead of 2,720,000,000 pounds. While this is more wool than is usually in stock at this season, still it must be remembered that the actual stock of wool in London is today very much below normal while the stocks in all the Allied countries is very greatly below normal. It, therefore, seems that if this wool should be distributed to France, Belgium and Germany, there would not be any surplus of importance.

Even since reading the statement of Mr. Patterson above quoted, we have read official statements from England showing the imports of wool into

ciation desires here to assure the wool growers of the country that Mr. Patterson's supposed stock of 8,000,000 bales cannot exist, and while there is some element of doubt as to what the exact stocks are, we make the prediction that our estimate is far more accurate than his.

FAVORS LATER DATE

I think this would be a good time to change the time of meeting of the National Wool Growers Association. July or August would be a better time for sheepmen to attend, no one cares to leave their business at this time of year. THOS. COOPER, Wyo.

THE PROPAGANDISTS LESS ACTIVE

Raise-more-sheep champions are less vociferous than recently. Passing the hat around for the wherewith to lubricate the machinery of the campaign is not attended with old-time results. Enthusiasm has waned perceptibly, even raise-more-wool champions realizing that they were not getting a run for their money. The agitation had a plausible sound, especially that part of it that portrayed the farm flock creating wealth from waste material, but in practice the thing has not worked out. The breeding ewe market has had a sharp slump, appeals to the country to invest on the new basis failing to elicit response. The decline in ewe values is about \$5@7 a head, the market being on a peddling basis. Yearling ewes may now be had at \$11 that were worth \$18 last spring, offers at that figure failing to elicit bids.

An unsatisfactory wool deal in 1918 did much to upset the "raise-more" campaign. Growers realized that they were being swindled by country dealers, but were powerless to do anything other than protest. Scores of county organizations are being formed for the purpose of pooling the new clip, but what is needed is a central market to which small lots could be consigned and sold without a delay of several months, as in the case of lambs.

Many ewes taken last summer have already been returned to market, some of them fat enough for conversion into mutton while others have gone back to the country. A Michigan man who had an order on the spindle all last summer for yearling ewes, but was unable to get them at his price, was told by a commission man recently that he could buy at \$11.50 stock worth \$18 on the high spot. "Don't want 'em now," he replied. "The sheep raising fever has left me."

Propagandum is dying hard, but it has run its course. The country is growing skeptical and it is highly probable that 1919 will witness considerable liquidation. J. E. P.

Your Full Duty

As yet many members of the National Wool Growers' Association have not paid their \$5.00 dues for the year. I want to urge every sheepman to pay this Association his dues for 1919. The organization has neglected nothing that would promote your welfare and the work outlined for this year is more important than ever before. Let me again urge every woolgrower to send in his \$5.00 at once.

F. J. HAGENBARTH, Pres.

GOOD COLORADO WINTER

The sheepmen are feeling very well satisfied with the way their flocks have come through the winter so far, as the range never was so short of feed owing to the continuous drought. The desert between Mack, Colorado, and Green River, Utah, was brown and parched last fall. Consequently there was 20 per cent fewer sheep put on the desert last fall than in 1917. Fortunately the weather has been all in favor of open range for stock, as there has not been a cold day all winter, with four inches of snow, which came the first of November. There has been about four inches on the ground all winter, which made the most favorable climatical conditions. In the absence of good feed the sheep are holding their own so far in good condition. The sheepmen anticipated hard luck in the fall and bought up all the hay and beet tops in the valley west of Grand Junction, and with a good many carloads of cake they are fortified against losses for the lack of feed. There is estimated to be 180,000 sheep on the desert between Mack, Colorado, and Green River, Utah, with 15,000 now in the valley on the ranches on beet tops, alfalfa hay and ensilage. Last year there were 60,000 sheep sheared at Mack, but the shearing plant has been moved to West Water, Utah, twenty-five miles west on the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad. Sheepmen have cut

their herds down about 20 per cent on account of bad looking winter range, high price of feed and labor; herders are now getting \$75 per month. The weather continues to be very fine and everything indicates that the sheep will be in first class condition this spring, provided, however, that there is sufficient moisture to start the feed when warm weather sets in. Practically all of the sheep that are wintered on ranches here, or on the desert, are shipped to the forest reserves in summer. The feeling among the sheepmen for the future success of their business is good and they do not anticipate any disastrous results on account of the close of the war.

B. F. KIEFER, Colorado.

SALES OF SURPLUS ARMY ANIMALS

Washington, D. C.—The auction sales conducted by the War Department at various camps, for the disposal of surplus horses and mules of the army, are proving very successful. Reports received of sales held January 14 and the two or three days following show that the bidding was spirited, practically every camp selling their scheduled quota, and in many instances the schedule was oversold. Another encouraging feature was the excellent prices maintained. Other sales were held on the 21st and still others are planned for January 28.

Horses referred to as cavalry represent the lighter type of army horses weighing up to 1,150 pounds; artillery represent a draft horse above 1,150 pounds. Mules have been divided into draft, which includes both wheel and lead mules, and pack, which are the blocky class of mules used in the army pack trains. These sales present an excellent opportunity just at this time to anyone interested in the purchase of good, sound, serviceable animals, at the attractive prices; and the commanding officer of any of the camps mentioned will gladly give any information desired regarding the animals offered at his particular depot.

OUR AUSTRALIAN LETTER

By R. H. Harrowell

Now that the war has happily ended and communications are being re-established it will be possible to send more regular budgets of Australian pastoral and farming news to your journal.

Unfortunately at time of writing a very serious and wide spread drought is throwing its tentacles over the Commonwealth. Practically all over Queensland and the great part of New South Wales actual drought conditions prevail—with extreme dryness in other parts. Considerable losses of stock, principally cattle have already occurred in Queensland and, mortality is threatened in the sheep areas.

The worst of it is exceptionally good rains are required to break a drought at this period of the year and they are not likely to occur. Isolated thunder storms or heavy deluges separated by over long intervals do no more than provide drinking water for stock. Rain coming in that form often does more harm than good.

In a general way Australian pastures depend upon spring rains. If during September, October and November useful consecutive falls of rain had occurred, the natural pastures respond and become firmly established by the time the hot weather sets in. The heat of summer then turns the grass into sweet nutritious hay and it lasts well through the hot weather and stands up remarkably well against drought conditions. If, however, there should be a dry spring—and brief but heavy rains early in the hot weather—a rapid flush of grass is produced only to be immediately dried off. The dry grass is not the sweet nutritious hay that is formed by the gradual process of spring rains—but it is limp and lacks nutrition—and stock can barely live upon it. Therefore the hopes of saving the situation in the immediate future lie in good useful falls throughout the immense drought area—followed by further falls until the pastures again become sufficiently well established to resist the drying winds

of summer. Unfortunately, however, the desired kind of weather is not likely to be had at this period of the year—so there are very serious prospects of the drought becoming greatly intensified.

Some parts of Australia such as Riverina N. S. W. and Central Queensland experienced particularly favorable weather earlier in the year—with result that there was an immense growth of grass in these parts. The consequence is this is now in a very inflammable state—and very disastrous grass fires are occurring. In Queensland thousands of square miles of country have been burned—fencing has been destroyed and thousands of

are culled.

The live stock which Captain Phillip brought with him when establishing the first settlement in Australia in January, 1788, is stated to have comprised seven horses, six cattle, twenty-nine sheep, twelve pigs, and a few goats. During the years immediately succeeding the first settlement the growth of the number of live stock was slow, so that the numbers in 1800 were 203 horses, 1,044 cattle and 4,017 pigs. During the next fifty years, however, the pastoral industry made rapid strides, and at the end thereof, i. e., in 1850, the totals reached were 159,951 horses, 1,894,834 cattle, 15,993,954 sheep and 114,000 pigs.



Panamas and Hampshires on the Farm of Laidlaw & Brockie, Muldoon, Idaho

cattle have been burned. Several men have lost their lives in attempting to fight the fires. In Riverina most serious fires have occurred—hundreds of miles of fencing have been burned—and thousands of sheep lost to say nothing of the huge acreage of pasture destroyed.

However, these things are familiar features of Australian pastoral life. They have happened before and the country has survived but they explain the marked fluctuations in the live stock statistics of the Commonwealth. This aspect was recently touched upon by the president of the Grazers Association of N. S. W. in an address from which the following interesting facts

In 1860 the Commonwealth numbers of sheep were 20,135,286 and N. S. W. numbers 6,119,163.

In 1891 the Commonwealth numbers were 106,419,751, and N. S. W. numbers 61,831,416. This was the high water mark of Australian production in sheep. Nine years after, in 1900, there was a reduction in the numbers of 35,816,756 in the Commonwealth returns, and 21,810,910 in the New South Wales returns.

The numbers continued to fluctuate till in 1902 the N. S. W. numbers were 26,649,424, and the Commonwealth numbers 56,932,705. This was the lowest point in numbers that New South Wales has seen since 1878. The chief

factor in the cause of that reduction was the unfavorable season in 1892, and from that date until 1902 the seasons in the main were unfavorable to the production of larger numbers, in addition to the seasons the rabbits came in as a factor and reduced the carrying capacity of immense areas.

The decrease in the total was accompanied by great changes in the number of individual flocks in New South Wales. In 1891 there were 13,187 holdings. In 1904 the number had increased to 17,755 although the sheep depastured had decreased by over 27,000,000. In 1917 the number of holdings had increased to 24,420, the sheep being 36,196,383. It is significant to note that while in 1891 there were seventy-three holdings, which each carried over 100,000 sheep the number in 1901 was twelve and in 1917 only four. The sheep in flocks of over 20,000 comprised 62 per cent of the total in 1891 but only 23 per cent in 1917.

While considering the great losses caused by drought and rabbits from 1891 to 1902 it may not be out of place to notice the rapid manner in which the flocks of New South Wales increased under more favorable conditions. When numbers are reduced by excessive droughts, and the country becomes much lighter-stocked, double lambings for one or two years quickly re-establish numbers. As an instance of this, after providing trade requirements, the rate of actual increase has been as high as 20 per cent. The stock carrying capabilities of New South Wales are, however, very difficult to estimate, as the greater portion of the country is yet in its natural state. Improvements such as the subdivision of pasturage, more extended system of water conservation and irrigation, cultivation of natural grasses and artificial fodder will indefinitely extend the capacity to supporting a larger number of sheep. At present 50 per cent of the sheep in the Commonwealth are raised in New South Wales.

The climate of New South Wales is so mild that there is no necessity for housing stock; the sheep are kept chiefly in paddocks, very little shep-

herding being done. The advantages of the paddock system are numerous. Sheep kept in paddocks thrive better, and are less liable to disease. They grow a better fleece, and the wool is sounder and cleaner. Sheep increase in size, and live longer. In addition the expenses of the station are less than if worked under any other system, and amongst the Merino sheep the percentages of lambs is usually greater amongst paddock ewes.

Of late years considerable attention has been given to the question of breeding and the result is seen in the steady improvement in the weight of fleeces. In 1881-85 the average yield of wool per sheep was 5.24, in 1906-9 the average yield was 7.87. To increase the yield of wool very great attention was paid to the classing and culling, and purchasing of high class rams.

The Vermonts once tried in Australia, but they were soon discarded as sheep owners have learned the dangers of increasing wrinkles, and an excessive growth of wool. Loss of virility and the blowfly pest were the factors that in the main drove breeders back to plainer types and today most breeders prefer to buy rams from stock that are unhoused, and not artificially fed.

Among the pests with which pastoralists have to deal, the worst is the rabbit pest, which has cost the state millions of money, has reduced numbers of stock very considerably and notwithstanding legislative methods, poisoning, and all that science can bring to bear in the suppression of the pest the only solution of the problem up to the present is to clear effectually all rabbits on the holding by burning, poisoning, and digging out. Where trappers have been allowed to come on and kill for a living, it has been the common experience of owners to find a steady increase of rabbits.

Next to the rabbit, the blowfly is responsible for enormous destruction of stock, the number actually killed in New South Wales running into millions and necessitating the crutching, mustering and frequent handling of

sheep on most holdings, in order to minimize the pest.

Another of the pests the pastoralists have to deal with are worms in sheep. All those who have gained experience in dealing with worms find that drenching in time is considered a very effectual way of dealing with same.

Of late years dingoes and foxes have been largely on the increase, and the latter pest gives the pastoralist serious trouble. Where rabbits are plentiful, the foxes do not trouble sheep or lambs much, but of course they never go hungry and if rabbits are not available, young lambs or birds are equally succulent to the wily fox.

Another of the pests is the spread of noxious weeds. Bathurst burr and prickly pear are the two most difficult to deal with, and the system of allowing unclean stock routes has been largely responsible for the spread of these pests.

FROM SOUTHERN MONTANA

Thus far, January 17th, the winter has been very favorable to the range sheepman in southern Montana, with scarcely any very cold weather and just about enough snow for range feeding. While parts of Montana have experienced a severe drouth, this section has been more favored. Range sheep are in fine condition and it looks now as if there would be ample feed for all without having to ship in any. Hay is selling for \$15 to \$20 a ton according to quality and location. Oats are held at \$2.50 a hundred.

J. L. SWING, Montana.

MILD WINTER WEATHER

Southern Idaho has experienced continued mild, dry weather since the first of the year. The first part of January was moderately cold but very dry. So far it has been an ideal winter for feeding sheep, but the stockmen and ranchers are becoming concerned over the very light snowfall in the mountains.

E. R. M.

Some Useful Weather Signs and Proverbs

By J. Cecil Alter

"I reckon we are in for a spell of weather," said the old herder as he crept back into the sheep wagon after feeding the team one late winter morning. "And what is more, it is liable to break on us tonight, if my calculations are correct; so we better move the band back toward the nearest cache of cottonseed cake today and be ready for it."

"What do you know about the weather?" grumbled the tenderfoot helper, up an hour too soon to suit his temper. "Have you got a barometer in your bones?"

"I don't take much stock in rheumatism and sciatica as weather indicators; even if they do tell the truth sometimes, I'd rather not know about the weather than to have the pain, so I've never cultivated them," rejoined the old timer as he prodded the breakfast fire, not burning any too well, and ignored the ill humor of his helper, attributing that, also, very largely to the weather.

"The weather sign is like a book you've got; if you don't read the signs you don't know anything about the weather. But I've seen some of these new war-time herders that couldn't tell when a sheep had a belly full of feed, or even what a sheep can eat, much less could they tell about the weather; a blizzard would be onto them and the sheep gone before they would know what was up.

"It's just like I have been telling you about the sheep; you've got to watch them all the time, and to know what you see; for instance, I noticed that the horses were restless in the night, and the sheep were on the go earlier than usual this morning; very often such things are weather signs; they are sure to be, if there are other signs, as there have been lately. My smoking tobacco lights up like so much wet rags, and the old pipe don't smell so sweet and inviting as usual.

"Then I notice there is a lot of frost in sight on the bottoms this morning too; heavier and whiter frost than us-

ual, though the air has turned a heap softer and milder, meaning, to my way of thinking, that there is lots of wet in the air.

"There's Shep, licking that scratch the coyote gave him as if it were itching him; he'd be more concerned with licking that coyote than with laying around camp licking his sore spot, if it wasn't for the weather.

"The smoke from the camp wagon fire is spreading out thick on the ground like blue molasses—it can't go up when there's a storm wants to come down. A fellow's voice travels

packed in the bag like cement that has 'set.' The lantern wouldn't burn either this morning; acted like it was out of oil, but it wasn't; had a good wick, too, but it just gave a poor light, sputtering around like it had water in the oil and mused itself all up; smelled lots worse than usual too, but that is just another sign of the coming weather—too much wet in the air.

"The fog is oozing down the ravines this morning, and yesterday and the day before the clouds overhead were high and thin, sort of painted on the sky at first, then they got to looking



Still to be Seen in Old Vermont

too; the horses heard me call, though they were nearly a mile away; the sound always seems to go better when there is lots of other weather sign; besides, I have always had a feeling that you can see farther and plainer during the quiet time before a storm; I know things look plainer across the valley this morning than they usually do on these cold gray mornings when there's nothing in sight but still weather.

"The bacon is limp, too, not so cold and stiff in the piece; the hunks of bread left from supper ain't quite as hard as rocks; and the table salt is

like a muslin sheet. Maybe you didn't notice it, but last night Bear's Head Mountain went to bed with a night cap on—just a little cloud that sort of settles down before a storm to protect its bald pate, I guess; it is always there before a good storm; though sometimes it is there without much of a storm. They say any high mountain is liable to have such night caps, if you are where you can see them.

"There, my pipe's out again. I don't feel like eating much this morning, either; but that's just another sign of the weather—nothing really the mat-

ter. There they go; see those sheep sneaking off down the valley in a bunch as if they were in a 'huff'—no scattering over the hills to forage this morning—they know it, just as well as my old pipe knows it, that we are in for a storm. Hear them bleat, as if some one were driving them where they didn't want to go; and they aren't eating much either—more sign that the weather is going to upset.

"See those millinery plumes in the sky, tails pointing upward? Those clouds are falling, coming down just like the rain and snow—and the temperature—will be coming down by night if I don't miss my guess. The storm isn't coming very fast though or it would be onto us now, for there was some sign yesterday. We've still got time to get the bands down by the store feed.

"Did I mention it? There wasn't many stars in sight this morning when I first got out—there's millions of them in cold, settled weather, but this morning there were only a few and they were all fuzzed up, like a light showing through a tent or a wagon cover. The moon's horns were blunt, too, and there wasn't any map on the moon—just a blur of light.

"Yesterday morning there was a halo on the moon; and yesterday afternoon, another ring was around the sun, lots larger than the one that had been around the moon, and I've noticed several times that these rings get bigger as the storm gets closer. Then, I have noticed them come, and maybe stay the same size a day or two, or even get bigger, and then get smaller, or go away and stay, without a storm.

"The surest sign of the weather is the color of the sky; and we have sunsets out here that are grander than anything I ever saw in any of your towns. We have been having them right along till last night, when the sun went down in a gray and solemn-like bed; and this morning, true to the storm signs, the colors have shifted to the eastern sky like stage scenery, and the sunrise and the whole eastern sky were lit up like a bowery, with the colored carnival lights."

Strange as it may seem, the student of meteorology finds that the weather signs of the old sheep herder herein enumerated are based very largely on facts, and on the actual effects produced in advance of important storms. Probably a single one of the signs, without the others, would not be sufficient in the mind of the meteorologist, but neither would it be to the sheep herder. But when many signs point somewhat definitely in the direction of stormy weather, it is better to get the sheep nearer the feed, as the herder advises.

Most weather proverbs, originally good, have been transported like so much household furniture, to places where the weather does not obey them. This is particularly true over the winter range country of the West, where sky and other signs of the weather are perhaps the least reliable. However, the falling barometer, the shifting wind, the increased humidity, and the rise in temperature, with all the attendant effects, are present in the Rocky Mountain and plateau regions just as certainly as elsewhere, though they may be less well defined; and since storm tracks here are less definite, the fairly good indications of storm are sometimes at fault.

Too many proverbs have been reincarnated after numerous natural demises—due to the climate! Their makers have been more willing to spoil the truth than the rhyme, and thus the rhyme has lived numerous lives to the discredit of the proverb. Such unreliable signs refer, for instance, to the phases of the moon, especially to the angle or direction of the points of the horns when in the quarter phases—as if this astronomical fact which is predictable thousands of years hence to within a few minutes if not seconds, could affect the weather on earth, 240,000 miles distant, which cannot usually be predicted by government forecasters more than a few days in advance.

Other unreliable proverbs are those relating to the weather of a certain day as having a bearing on the weather that is to follow; for instance, March 1st, whether it comes in like a lion or

like a lamb; ground hog day, whether the sun shines or not; the weather on St. Swinthin's day or any other saint's day; or even on the Equinox, there aren't any equinoctial storms, that is, there are no more storms in the records centering around March 21, than there are around March 15 or March 31, as a rule. These fables are fabrications.

High air pressure, which is usually a fair settled weather condition, is regarded as more stimulating and exhilarating to a sensitive person, and he eats more and sleeps better under such conditions; while low atmospheric pressure, usually associated with stormy or unsettled weather, is apt to accentuate nervousness and irritability that is not well controlled.

Since northwesterly winds are usually attendants of an approaching high pressure region, there is good sense in the time-old adage which bids us "Do business with men when the wind is in the northwest." Animals often show restlessness before a storm; and wolves howl and foxes bark more when cold clear settled weather is at hand. Fires in stoves usually burn less readily, lacking draft, when the pressure is low, that is when there is less buoyancy to the atmosphere; thus at these times the smoke falls to the ground, and the morning fogs move down the ravines. Fogs move up the slope when the pressure is high or is rising.

The increase in humidity has its effect in many ways, though these are more pronounced in summer than in winter usually; it makes the deposit of dew or frost more profuse; it makes persons and animals more languid if they are inclined to laziness; sores on man or animal are apt to be more in thought, and rheumatic people are apt to complain more at such times, perhaps because of the arresting or stopping of the transpiration or invisible sweating from the pores of the skin.

All odors are more noticeable and pungent when encountered, because, during greater humidity, they are less readily diffused throughout the entire atmosphere. This results from the

greater stability of the moist air; that is, it has less mixing within itself, since it is in a more settled condition because of its uniform degree of saturation everywhere. Thus it is that sound waves travel farther and more distinctly, and also sight waves in many cases.

Halos, or large rings around the sun or the moon are due to refraction of light by the moisture in the upper air; if the halo seems small, it means that it is due to moisture very high or far from the observer; it has gotten between the observer and the moon on the swifter upper winds, ahead of the storm. If the halo seems large, or close to the observer, it is because the moisture is in the air all the way from highest layers to near the earth, thus the Zuni Indians not only had a saying that "When the moon (or sun) is in his house it will rain soon;" but, also, "The bigger the ring the nearer the wet."

Views near the earth are made plainer by a quiet, homogenous or uniform air, yet moisture up in the sky being in different quantities and densities varying with altitude, interferes with the light from the moon and stars as well as the sun. Small stars are blotted entirely out, and the larger ones have tiny burrs about them, hence it looks as if the stars were getting together, and the proverb has it "When the stars begin to huddle, the earth will soon become a puddle." Also, a "Clear moon is a frost moon;" that is, if it is sharply visible there is less moisture aloft, and cold settled weather is at hand usually.

"The higher the clouds the finer the weather," is good everywhere, as a rule; at least for the ensuing twelve or fifteen hours. "Sound traveling far and wide, a stormy day will betide," has been explained, as has also "The farther the sight the nearer the rain," all of which proverbs are legal tender nearly everywhere.

One of the oldest, and certainly one of the most universally applicable weather signs, and upon which the greatest number of proverbs are based, is that concerning the morning and

evening sky colors. Even a casual observer can soon learn how to note the intensity and shade of colors about the sun and around the edges of the scattering clouds toward the sun, that are significant, for they are quite distinctive.

The great amount of red showing in the sunlight when the sun is near the horizon is due to absorption and interference with the light rays by the heavier dust particles in this lower region of the atmosphere; also to the dust particles which have become greater in apparent size due to the condensation of globules of moisture upon them. Without this moisture the dispersion of the finer bluer rays

for further condensation, is thus tending to bring nearer the rain condition in the air. In fact, since moisture is brought to the interior parts of the continent from the ocean by the storms the morning redness indicates that the moisture is already arriving in abundance.

Some proverbs pertaining to these conditions, more or less applicable to the West are:

"Sky red in the morning is the shepherd's sure warning;

Sky red at night is the shepherd's delight."

"Evening gray and morning red, make the shepherd hang his head;"



In the Snow at Hay Creek, Oregon

would be less important, and the reds reaching the observer less important and less brilliant.

A red sunset therefore means that the rising air currents during the warmest part of the afternoon, have only at these maximum heights been cooled so that their dust particles show incipient condensation of moisture; that is, that moisture is not very abundant in the atmosphere.

A red sunrise means that at that time, which is the coolest part of the twenty-four hours, when there is the least convection or lifting of vertical currents by the action of the sun, there is a great depth of air laden more or less with moisture-covered dust particles. The ensuing day, which will lift these lower particles still higher

"An evening gray and morning red will send the shepherd wet to bed."

"A red sun has water in his eye."

"Evening red and morning gray, two sure signs of one fine day."

The phenomena of red sunrises and sunsets, and their connection with the weather was referred to by Jesus the Christ when the Pharisees and Sadducees asked if he would show them a sign from heaven (Matthew 16:1-3.) "He answered and said unto them, when it is evening, ye say, it will be fair weather; for the sky is red. And in the morning, it will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and lowering."

THE WOOL SITUATION

When the government wool auctions started the first sale commanded fairly good figures, but at the next sale prices dropped somewhat and many wools were withdrawn without a bid. No wool had been sold below the British issue price but we desired assurance that none would be so sold. President Hagenbarth arranged with Mr. Penwell, former Wool Administrator, to go to Washington and if possible obtain from the government an agreement that it would not sell any of its wools for less than ten per cent above the British issue price. However, Mr. Penwell was unable to secure such a promise but he did obtain from the Quartermaster General a promise that a minimum price equal to the British issue price would be maintained on all government owned wool offered at auction and that no government wool would be sold between July 1 and November 1, during which time our domestic wools are being marketed. The statement from the quartermaster is as follows:

"Many inquiries have been received from wool dealers, wool growers and wool manufacturers in regard to the policy of the government in disposing of the stocks of wool held by the War Department. In answer to these inquiries the War Department states as follows:

First: It is the intention of the war department to continue to sell at pub-

lic auction such wools as manufacturers may require with a minimum reserve price the equivalent of the British civil issue price. This basis of the British civil issue price will be maintained as the minimum reserve price until July 1, 1919.

Second: It is not the intention of the War Department in the sale of wool now owned by the government to compete with the domestic producers of wool. It is the intention of the War Department on July 1, 1919, when the domestic clip will probably be arriving in the markets in sufficient volume to supply the wants of manufacturers, to discontinue offering at auction or otherwise until such a time as the domestic producer shall have had ample opportunity to market his 1919 clip. November 1, 1919, those grades of wool remaining in the hands of the government that would compete with the product of domestic wool growers."

The government owned on February 1, about 275,000,000 pounds of grease wool. This is now to be offered at auction in such quantities as domestic mills can absorb. It is thought around 50,000,000 pounds per month can be sold so that all this wool will be in the hands of dealers or manufacturers before spring passes. We hope it is readily absorbed for it is desirable to consume it as fast as possible.

The British issue price to which we refer is the price at which Great

Britain sells wool delivered to the Allies and to her own manufacturers. As all the wool of New Zealand, Australia and Britain is owned by the government of Great Britain, this British issue price controls it all. It is lower than prices prevailing in this country or South America or South Africa at the time the war closed. In fact, it is the world's lowest price, but since Great Britain owns so much wool and holds it all on that basis it may be that the world's wool values will indirectly be fixed on that basis. At the present time American manufacturers or dealers cannot buy wool anywhere on earth below this British issue price and at the present time Great Britain will not sell us any wool at any price. Later, however, she may decide to sell some at this price. If the British issue price becomes the basis for American wool values, and certainly a lower price cannot be justified on any grounds, then our territory wools should sell in Boston at thirty-five cents to sixty cents per pound, averaging around forty-five to forty-seven cents. On the other hand, lack of ships makes the import of wool expensive and uncertain and this may result in a higher price for domestic wools.

In this issue we publish a table showing just what our wools are worth in Boston on the basis of the British issue price. But let us not forget that our wools may sell above this price but we see no reason why they should fall below it.

BOSTON VALUE OF AVERAGE TERRITORY WOOL ON BASIS OF BRITISH ISSUE PRICE.

Grade	Shrink %	Scoured Price	Grease Price
FINE COMBING	64	\$1.46	\$.52½
FINE CLOTHING OR FRENCH COMBING	67	1.40	.46¼
½ BLOOD COMBING	62	1.40	.53¼
½ BLOOD CLOTHING	64	1.27	.45¾
¾ BLOOD COMBING	55	1.16	.52¼
¾ BLOOD CLOTHING	56	1.09	.48
¼ BLOOD	50	.90	.45
BRAID	43	.71	.40½

THESE VALUES ARE FOR AVERAGE WOOLS OF THE SHRINKAGE STATED. CHOICE WOOLS ARE WORTH THREE CENTS A SCOURED POUND MORE, INFERIOR WOOLS THREE CENTS A SCOURED POUND LESS. LIGHTER OR HEAVIER WOOLS WOULD BE WORTH MORE OR LESS ACCORDING TO SHRINK.

The Government agrees not to sell its wool below these prices.

FEEDING SHEEP IN MONTANA

That sheep feeding is practical in Montana is annually demonstrated by August Vaux of Sidney, in the lower Yellowstone, close to the North Dakota line. Vaux raises a considerable acreage of corn, puts up silage by the hundred tons and invariably tops the market. This year he sent a band of 126-pound wethers to Chicago that went over the scales at \$12 per hundredweight. Feed is always the factor and he grows it.

Statement on Government Ownership

Statement made by F. J. Hagenbarth, of Spencer, Idaho, President of the National Wool Growers Association, before the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce of the House in reference to H. R. 13324, and before the Committee on Interstate Commerce of the Senate in reference to Senate Bill 5248.

These two bills purport "to provide transportation, storage and marketing facilities for, and to regulate commerce among the States in, live stock, meats and other products derived from live stock." I am opposed to the enactment into law of this bill from a fundamental disbelief in governmental activity in private affairs beyond that degree which expediency or necessity makes imperative. Experience has demonstrated that private initiative, surrounded by proper and natural factors of competition, will bring the greatest results in any given undertaking. The minute the gates of politics are thrown open and a swarm of politicians settle upon any business enterprise, from that moment on its doom is sealed. No interest can be of necessity as keen in any business as the interest which the owner of that business will feel in it. The old adage "What is every man's business is no man's business" is peculiarly applicable.

Every step which is taken by the government towards interference or control or operation of private industry is just another step closer to radical socialism. While it is true, as has been urged, that on the one hand the untrammelled activities of large enterprises which have reached almost the proportions of monopolies, and which are sometimes without conscience, will ultimately develop a socialistic spirit if not curbed, yet on the other hand, it does not signify that socialism will be prevented if the government itself goes into the business in question, because by this act we have immediately developed socialism itself.

The function of government is to govern the doing of things, and not the performance by the government of the thing that is being done. In other words, we govern; we do not do.

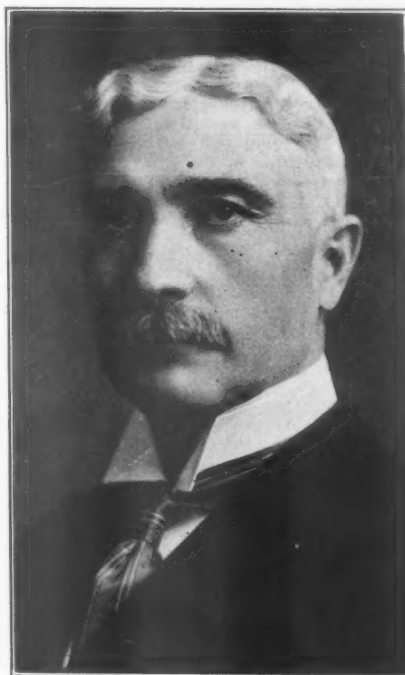
It is proposed by this bill to tear apart the present splendid organizations which no one will deny have been efficient, constructive, and great factors in our national development, and immediately after having disorganized these present concerns we propose, through the terms of this bill, to create other corporations which will do identically the same things that the present concerns are now doing.

There can be no hope that greater efficiency will be developed through any governmental agencies for the handling and distribution of fresh meats than are now being accomplished by the packers themselves. On the contrary, we have good reason to believe, judging from past experience in other lines of endeavor, that there must be a great falling down in the effectiveness, from an industrial standpoint, through the government's handling of this business.

There does seem to be, however, a feeling that certain unjust practices have been indulged in by the so-called big packers. This may or may not be true. The Federal Trade Commission is most urgent in its statements and submits what purports to be absolute proofs that the packers have been and are now indulging in unethical business methods. On the other hand, the packers and their friends disclaim the truth of these statements. They claim they have proofs at hand which will disprove the

charges made by the Commission. Again, this may or may not be true. Whether the packers have or have not unfairly dominated the industrial situation as regards the purchasing, killing, and distribution of meat and other products, and whether or not they have indulged in unethical business principles, the fact still remains that they are potentially able under present conditions to do these things and such a possibility should undoubtedly be curbed.

No man can say that it would be desirable that any industrial combination in the United States should have unrestrained power to dominate in that industry. Human nature is too frail to permit of such a risk.



F. J. HAGENBARTH
President National Wool Growers Association

However, the cure for this state of affairs does not consist, in my judgment, in applying the medicines prescribed by this bill. We are simply transferring from one set of individuals to another the identical powers and possibilities complained of. There seems to be a middle way which can be pursued and which, while taking advantage of all the past achievements of these great packing concerns, will not assume the risk of their disorganization and destruction at the hands of experimental politicians. In my judgment, the key to the solution of the problem is "governmental supervision" and not "government control" or "government operation" or "government ownership" of any one of the activities set forth to be taken over by the government under the terms of this bill.

I have been actively engaged in the raising, handling and shipping of live stock in a large way for the past twenty-five or thirty years. I have developed a very large acquaintance among live stock men, extending from Texas to Oregon, and from lower California to Minnesota. During the past few years, the last two years especially, I have felt a keen interest in the questions proposed to be settled by this bill; not an academic interest but a vital interest prompted by my own personal fortune,—which is wrapped up in the live stock industry.

I have talked to hundreds of stockmen, producers and feeders of cattle, sheep and hogs, and I feel safe in saying that not to exceed one out of ten of these men is in favor of the provisions of this bill, nor are they in favor of government control of any of the commercial agencies now being exercised by the packers in the handling of their products. I do find, however, among them that fully ninety per cent is in favor of "government supervision."

Some have expressed themselves as ardent champions of the packers, who see nothing wrong with what they have done. Others feel that they have been greatly injured by the packers. Others of a philosophical turn of mind do not seem to have been disturbed one way or the other, but practically all are a unit in demanding that "government supervision" be secured in some manner, and probably all give as one of the reasons therefor "in order that this eternal hubbub and disturbance in the meat business and these attacks against the packers, whether right or wrong, which are reflected back into our business as producers may be put a stop to." In other words, the producer wants peace.

For nearly twenty years now there has been a periodical recrudescence of this discussion. One investigation has no sooner been ended than another has been begun. In my own judgment, the present agitation has been largely the product of too much lawyers.

A committee of sane men, representative of the various classes of live stock producers, sitting down in conference with like committees selected among the packers, and a further committee representing consumers, all sane, level headed business men, pursuing ordinary business methods, within ninety days could have settled this whole controversy to the eminent satisfaction of the producer, the packer, and the consumer. As matters stand, passions have been generated, criminations and recriminations have been exercised, and the main facts that are sought and the main things that are to be done have been practically lost sight of.

I am not worried about what happens to the packers except through a sense of inherent American justice, but I am deeply concerned as to the effect of the present agitation and present proposals on the live stock business, as well as the ultimate consumer.

An intelligent producer must realize that his fate is wrapped up in the attitude toward him of this ultimate consumer, and, when consumers are led constantly to believe that they are being robbed by the

packers, this resentment is bound to reach back through the packer to the producer via the avenue of lessened consumption and lower prices.

So much for fundamentals and generalities. I would now like to be permitted to discuss in detail some of the proposals contained in the bill itself. These we will consider in order as they are proposed in the bill.

Those of us who are familiar with the methods of handling meat products and live stock on foot thirty or forty years ago know that the service given by railroads was far from satisfactory. About twenty-five years ago I personally called upon the packers in Chicago, urging in the cause of better live stock transportation for the benefit of the producer and the bettering of market conditions that they purchase and equip additional cars independent of the railroads, not only for the transportation of live stock but for the distribution of meats after slaughter and packing. The producer felt that his best interests could be served in this way.

It has always been a difficult matter to bring even competitive railroads to understand the perishable nature of live stock and its products. This lack of understanding has been the source of constant friction and accumulation of damage suits against the railroads by the shippers of live stock. The packers, of course, were very familiar with the perishability phase of the business and were ultimately prevailed upon as incident to their own advantage to provide the best possible equipment.

Since that time the numbers of fully equipped cars for both the handling of live stock and the finished product which have been bought or leased by the packers run up into the thousands. The use of these cars by the packers, through the railroads, has been of untold benefit to the producer of live stock as well as to the consumer.

The present bill proposes simply to take away from the packers the privilege of owning or handling cars of this nature and for the President "to operate for the United States as common carriers through such agency or agencies as he may designate all stock cars, refrigerator cars and especially equipped cars acquired for the United States under the provisions of this Act."

Had the bill stated that it was proposed to surround the use of such packer-owned cars with such safeguards, either through the Interstate Commerce Commission or through some other adequate agency, as would prevent their improper use for non-competitive purposes by the packers, and had the bill further proposed to compel the railroads to furnish additional cars, both for transportation of live stock and meat, in order to increase marketing facilities, then we would have had constructive legislation which would benefit both the producer and consumer.

Instead of this we have a proposition to tear down a highly efficient and organized system which, as now administered, is fruitful of great benefit to the live stock industry, and to set up in its stead a politically operated organization, the fruits of which we are entirely unable to predict. To say the least, such action would be highly experimental, and there does not seem to me to be either rhyme or reason in the proposal as now made by the bill. Adequate regulation and supervision will control any evils that may exist.

As to packer ownership of stockyards, there seems to be a division of sentiment among live stock men. There does not seem

to be much division of sentiment in the matter of opposition to government ownership or control of stockyards. The packers themselves disclaim any desire to retain their ownership in these yards and have repeatedly stated that if thought desirable by the government or live stock interests they will be perfectly willing to surrender any stockyard interests that they now have. They, however, make this one proviso that guarantees of some nature should be given that service rendered by stockyards should be kept up to the present high standard of efficiency.

Here again in the operation of stockyards comes into play the specific knowledge inherent to the business of meat packing as to the perishability of live stock. The packer is keenly interested from selfish motives in having live stock handled with the maximum of dispatch and minimum of abuse. This for the reason that the better the condition in which the animal goes into the slaughtering pen the better will be the meat product derived therefrom.

There can be no objection to compelling the packers to surrender their present ownership in the stockyards, but there is serious objection to the turning over of stockyards operation to any governmental agency which, from the very nature of things, must be politically controlled and subject to the same criticism as are most governmental controlled or operated businesses. Here again the interests of the live stock shipper and the consumer as well can be seriously injured.

There need not be much alarm over this question. The proper thing for the government to do is to compel all stockyards to operate subject to supervision, under the provisions of which such corporations, however owned, must be operated solely and strictly with a view to efficiency and for the benefit of the producer as well as the packer himself. A bureau set up under the Secretary of Agriculture, for instance the Bureau of Markets, can readily provide supervisory machinery to make such a law highly effective.

The ownership of stockyards does not seem to me to be material. The functions performed and the manner of performing them are vital. To substitute a new ownership for stockyards, in my judgment, would not cure anything. The new owners, whether governmental or otherwise, would have to learn all that the present owners and operators of stockyards already know, and there certainly is no good reason for such a process. Supervision or regulation is what is needed and not change of ownership.

The bill provides that the President is "authorized to acquire such cold storage and freezing plants and warehouses, together with such adjuncts and appurtenances of the same, as he may deem necessary or appropriate to provide facilities for the operation thereof or for the storage and competitive marketing of meats or other products derived in whole or in part from live stock or from the slaughtering of live stock." And, further, it is proposed that the President may operate "for the United States through such agency or agencies as he may designate all storage facilities and marketing facilities acquired for the United States under the provisions of this Act."

The chief argument advanced by the proponents of this provision is that at the present time the big packers alone are powerful and rich enough to own their own distributing and marketing facilities throughout the country, and that the small

packer, being unable to provide such facilities, is therefore, not a competitive factor in the meat business and that he is deprived of the opportunity of proper distribution of his products. This being the case, and it being the desire of the government to help such small independent packers, and incidentally to benefit the consumer by providing additional competition, therefore it would appear that the proper procedure would be to construct or cause to be constructed additional storage, warehouse and marketing facilities for the general use of those so desiring.

It certainly will not help anything, at the present time, to take away from the packers their branch houses and distributing agencies, which no one will deny are being operated on the highest plan of economic efficiency, and to turn these same facilities over into experimental hands.

The packers having a very large financial interest at stake and being accountable to the public for a sound and palatable product must, of necessity, give the utmost care to the handling of their meats.

The proper marketing of meats contains inherently the reward for all of the processes that have gone before in their production. The proper marketing of meat represents the efforts of the producer on the Western plains and the feeder on the farms. Meat must pay the bills to the railroads for transportation from points of production to the stockyards; it must pay the packer for his slaughtering and distribution, and it must finally be delivered to the consumer in such a condition that he is not only satisfied but keen and anxious to purchase more.

Any proposal which is made that may possibly disturb the present highly efficient methods of distributing fresh meats is fraught with danger to the producer and loss to the consumer.

There is no occasion whatever for experiment. Such constructive legislation as may be necessary is a comparatively simple matter. The provision as to governmental storage and marketing as contained in this bill, in my judgment, is utterly destructive and has no merit whatever. To provide additional marketing facilities for the smaller packers and to enlarge competition is a reasonable and desirable proposition.

Section 3 of this bill provides that "all persons, partnerships, associations or corporations engaged in the operation in interstate commerce of stockyards or the adjuncts, appurtenances, and facilities hereinbefore enumerated, or engaged in the purchase, manufacture, storage or sale in interstate commerce of live stock or the products derived in whole or in part from live stock, or the slaughtering of live stock, shall operate exclusively under license issued by the President." This provision of the bill, if constructively administered, is a wise one, although it may be open to constitutional objection by reason of being class legislation.

Why the packer, whether large or small, and whether directly or indirectly engaged in the slaughtering of meats, should be compelled to operate under a Federal license, and other lines of business not be compelled so to do, is not entirely apparent. A bill broad enough in its provisions to authorize the President at his discretion, and where found necessary, to compel any business in the United States operating in interstate commerce to take out a license might be a wise enactment. Under the provisions of such a bill, bureaus or commissions could be set up under the Secretary of Commerce,

which would exercise supervisory powers over the packers or any other line of business.

As a producer of live stock I feel that any unreasonable restrictions or limitations which are placed upon the packer must ultimately be reflected back into the business of live stock production; as a producer of live stock I have felt that our industry owes a great debt of gratitude to the so-called great packers. They have made it possible to save and to utilize to the uttermost farthing the fullest value of our product,—although we may not have received at all times our fair proportion of such savings.

We have had complaints, and still have have complaints. They are not so great in my mind, however, as to be only curable at the risk of utterly disorganizing and tearing apart these great meat packing industries. I feel that the bigger and the more efficient the packer is the greater will be the reward to the producer for his labor and the cheaper will meats be conveyed to the consumer.

I have no sympathy with the objections urged by many to the packers going into other lines of business. The more money they can make through their highly organized machines the less will be the overhead burden on the meat end of the business, the greater the price received by the live stock producer, and the cheaper the meat to the consumer. It is certainly inconsistent to urge as an argument that the packer by dealing in canned goods or other lines of merchandise interferes with the profits of others engaged in the same line of industry. By this process of reasoning we are striving to prove that by eliminating competition we are increasing it. The more competition we can have in this country in the manufacture and distribution of food products the better for the producer and the consumer. These are after all the chief things to be considered.

I have personally urged upon the great packers that they should go even a step farther; that instead of restricting themselves to the ownership and maintenance of branch houses for wholesale distribution throughout the country, they should go into the retail business and sell meat to the public for that reasonable price at which it could be sold. Instead of this attainable reasonable price the consumer is to-day being compelled, by our unscientific retailing system, to pay nearly twice the real value of the meat which he needs.

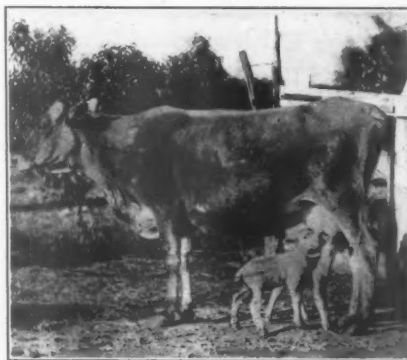
From the statement of Swift and Company issued in Chicago on January 9, 1919, I find that the margin of profit for the past year in the meat departments was 2.04 per cent on the turnover, which is about $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ per pound before paying taxes or interest on borrowed money. I doubt if many business concerns in the United States can make a better showing of labor so profitably performed on so small a margin of profit. Over a period of seven years, from 1912 until 1918, Swift and Company, who are the largest slaughterers of sheep and lambs among the great packers, handled many millions of sheep and lambs at an average earning of 16.3¢ per head. We could not ask this service to be performed for any less. For the mere yardage and commission on the sale of our sheep and lambs we are paying practically as much.

Sometimes it would appear that the present bill is the outgrowth of a desire to punish the packers for past sins rather than for present delinquencies. It is undoubtedly true that twenty-five years ago the packers

were indulging in unethical business methods. However, we must remember that at that same period American business ethics were not on the same plane as they are to-day. Other business men during those years likewise indulged in unethical practices. The awakening of public conscience during the past generation has fortunately done away with this state of affairs. In many instances legislation has made it imperative.

We have been making progress and there is no reason why we should not continue to do so, but I am firmly convinced that the methods proposed by this bill are not following the proper procedure. I consider the bill destructive rather than constructive. In the main it is socialistic rather than supervisory.

I desire to repeat that while I have not been convinced so far by the evidence presented by the Federal Trade Commission's report, such as I have been privileged to see, or from other sources, that these great concerns have been guilty of the practices with which they have been charged, yet I feel that such things can come about and that as a preventative reasonable government supervision is necessary. Let us learn to walk before we attempt to run. If government supervision fails, then we can step



The Cheapest Way

over into government control and finally take the fatal jump into socialism and try government ownership.

FROM CALIFORNIA

In regard to the campaign for increased consumption of lamb, it seems to me a good advertisement in "Good Housekeeping" might bring results. This magazine, as you know, goes to the housewives of the country, those who are interested in good cooking and good housekeeping generally; so it seems to me an advertisement in it might be of more benefit than in any other magazine. Many of the others are like the Wool Grower, they do not reach the right kind of people for this purpose.

Another thing that would help mate-

rially, if it could be accomplished, would be to secure legislation that would prevent butchers, especially in country towns, from selling goat meat all the time and representing it to be mutton or lamb. It is simply an outrage and hurts the sale of mutton to a very great extent. In northern California I am certain that more than 60 per cent of the "mutton" sold in the country towns is nothing but goat meat.

If the flu situation clears up we may call a meeting for the latter part of March or the latter part of April.

FRED A. ELLENWOOD, Calif.

IN EASTERN IDAHO

Our sheep are doing very well this winter although the range is short and there is a great scarcity of water. We put everything on feed January first and will keep them there until spring opens up. We are feeding alfalfa hay and cottonseed cake. Due to the lack of snow we had to install nine pumps to get water to the sheep.

We are going to lamb twelve thousand ewes beginning March tenth this year instead of lambing everything the last of April as has been our custom.

The coyotes are very bad in our section and our company has seven hunters at work.

While we have some scab in Idaho there is none in our section and we hope to keep it out.

While in Boise a few days ago I found many of the sheepmen had cut their herders to \$75 a month. It looks now as if wages would settle down to about that figure before spring.

H. C. WOOD, Idaho.

TO INVESTIGATE POSSIBILITIES OF THE SOUTH

I have tried and have had very satisfactory results in the stock business in the Salt River Valley and White Mountains in Arizona, also in the San Joaquin Valley, California; but I am going to Florida or some other Southern state to investigate the possibilities of the stock business in the South.

PERCY B. CHASE, California.

THE DENVER CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN NATIONAL LIVE STOCK ASSOCIATION

The Twenty-second Annual Convention of the American National Live Stock Association, in Denver, Colorado, January 21-23, 1919, was one of the best meetings ever held by that national body. Among the prominent speakers were Hon. David F. Houston, who made a wonderful talk on after-war conditions as affecting the agriculture and live stock industries; Hon. Clay Tallmas, who delivered a most interesting address relative to the public domain and the live stock industry; Hon. William B. Colver, chairman of the Federal Trade Commission, discussed the report of that commission on the meat packing industry; Hon. J. B. Kendrick explained at length the so-called Kendrick bill; Mr. Charles J. Brand, chief of the Bureau of Markets, briefly summarized the work of that bureau; Judge Cowan made a strong argument in favor of turning the railroads back to their owners.

President Pryor, in his annual address reviewing the work of the association during the year, stated that exports of meat products during 1919 would likely be as great as during 1918, but that in 1920 such exports would materially decrease and he warned stockmen to adjust their business accordingly. He dwelt on the fact that there is more live stock in the United States than ever in history, and that after normal conditions were restored, there might be importations of meat products from other countries, which would disastrously affect our home market.

One of the big questions before the convention was the report of the Federal Trade Commission and the legislation now being considered by Congress in the Simms bill and the Kendrick bill. The Simms bill is the measure prepared by the Federal Trade Commission and sent to the President, and by him referred to Congress. The Kendrick bill was prepared by Senator Kendrick, and provides:

First, separating the stockyards from packer ownership and control; second, requiring the railroad companies to furnish sufficient refrigerator cars to all on equal terms; third, regulation of the packer, stockyards, and commission men by Federal license, the administration of which is to be in the hands of the Department of Agriculture.

The Simms bill was a war measure and granted broad discretionary powers to the President. Now that the war is over, the necessity for many of the provisions of that bill has passed.

The Market Committee, in an exhaustive report, indorsed the Kendrick bill and a resolution to that effect was unanimously adopted.

The association vigorously went on record in favor of turning the railroads back to their owners, the restoration of the full jurisdiction of the Interstate Commerce Commission, and the suspension of proposed advances in railroad rates pending investigation. Poor railroad service on live stock and the delays in settlement of live stock claims were roundly denounced in the resolutions.

The work of the Bureau of Markets and the licensing of the packers; commission men, etc. was approved, and Congress was urged to enact suitable legislation continuing these licenses after the declaration of peace.

The convention urged the Treasury Department to arrange for ample opportunity for the inspection of cattle and hides from Mexico, so as to detect stolen animals.

The proposed advance in grazing fees in national parks was another much discussed topic and the association demanded that the Forest Service should make further changes in its regulations and spend more money toward improvements if the increase was to be made.

The association asked the Department of Agriculture to establish a Western branch; opposed the importation of live stock and meats from countries where contagious diseases exist; favored import tax on live stock and its products; asked for increased appropriations for destruction of pred-

atory animals; indorsed the National Live Stock Shippers' League. It was decided to publish a live stock paper in the interest of the association.

All the important state and local live stock organizations in the territory west of Chicago were represented by their officers and prominent members. It was the most representative convention ever held. President Pryor declined to accept another term as president, and the Hon. John B. Kendrick, now senator from Wyoming, was elected president amid great applause. C. M. O'Donel, of Bell Ranch, New Mexico, was elected first vice-president, and the following were elected as second vice-presidents: M. K. Parsons, Salt Lake City, Utah; Wallis Huidekoper, Wallis, Mont.; Isaac Baer, Meeker, Colo.; W. J. Tod, Maple Hill, Kan.; E. L. Burke, Omaha, Neb. T. W. Tomlinson was elected secretary, and S. H. Cowan, attorney. The selection of the next place of meeting was left to the executive committee.

AMATEUR FEEDERS LOSE MONEY

That a mechanic is required to handle sheep or lambs in the feedlot to maximum advantage was never more forcibly illustrated than during the present winter. Thousands of Western lambs weighing 60 to 65 pounds have been returned to market in little better condition than when they went out. Feed was high and amateurs stunted the rations, the result being that condition was eligible to a premium which is always the case under similar circumstances. On light runs packers took these half fat lambs, but during periods of plenitude they went back to the country for a more effective corner cross. Fortunately demand for feeding stock was healthy practically all the time so that a clearance was not difficult at the prices. Thousands of amateur feeders have had an expensive initiation, however, and will either profit by it or let a dangerous game alone hereafter.

J. E. P.

STIMULATING MUTTON CONSUMPTION

"A well-planned, vigorous, nation-wide campaign would stimulate mutton and lamb consumption one hundred per cent," said Jess C. Andrew, the Indiana breeder. "A more opportune time could not be imagined. Beef and pork are high; above the reach of many in fact and if the merits of lamb were proclaimed in convincing manner, immediate results would be noticeable.

"What we need is organization. In Indiana we have already begun a campaign of this character and while two heads are always better than one in evolving ideas or solving problems, I

be interested and by way of making reparation for the damage done by advising the public not to eat lamb the railroads could emblazon its good qualities on their dining car menus. Every little helps and none of this effort would be wasted. Unfortunately lamb is a perishable commodity not being susceptible of cure as are beef and pork, but this merely means that selling drives would be advantageous to the retailer. But the main thing is immediate action, shortage and high cost of beef is creating an unusually favorable opportunity.

"Let me tell what we have accomplished in Indiana by utilizing what ineffective organization was at our disposal. I live near Lafayette, a lively

ants of the several score of small towns scattered through the state in lamb. If communities ranging from 1,000 to 20,000 populations could be put on a permanent consumption basis of 100 to 500 carcasses weekly, Indiana would not only be able to consume every sheep and lamb it produces but become a heavy consumer of packing house product. I have no hesitation in stating that our farmers could use every pound of native lamb they raise if initiated in the knack of slaughtering and cooking. We propose to organize clubs for distributing the meat; pelts for which farmers get little under existing conditions will be assembled by county organizations and sold for their full value and as part of the



Ranch of C. N. Stillman, Sigurd, Utah

am of the opinion that outside the big cities county organizations can accomplish the desired object more readily and effectively than by any other means. To do the packers credit they have already exhausted their means. It is not a one-man job, nor a task for any single industry or organization. California has set us a commendable example by proclaiming raisin and prune days all over the country; why not a lamb day. It would have the merit of novelty at least so far as the big cities are concerned. Ask the big department stores that operate meat departments to make weekly drives, spending part of their advertising appropriations to attract public attention to lamb and mutton. Restaurants could

town that consumes large quantities of Chicago beef and pork, but until recently knew nothing about lamb, in fact butchers refused to handle it. What they did sell was inferior product, mostly that of ewes prepared indifferently and right here I want to emphasize the fact that lamb must be presented in attractive form if the consumer is to give it consideration. We gave a demonstration in the principal Lafayette hotel and literally forced local butchers to keep it in stock. That success encouraged the Indiana Sheep Breeders Association to undertake a state-wide campaign now in the initial stage, but from which we expect results; our primary purpose being to interest farmers and inhabit-

program wool will be marketed co-operatively.

"To my mind before we advocate increased lamb production it is necessary to find a market for what is now pressing on the market. One reason why the small flock has not thrived is that country buyers refuse to look at a bunch of lambs unless it can be bought at a serious discount under stockyard prices. They know approximately what a load of hogs will be worth when it reaches Chicago, but weekly fluctuations of \$2@3 per hundredweight on lambs render handling them highly speculative. That the market could be stabilized if the excess product could be consumed locally will not be disputed as I have no-

ticed that whenever Chicago gets a heavy run of native lambs prices break ruinously, carrying values of Western stock down in sympathy. This year, owing to the large number of Western ewes that went into cornbelt farmers' hands we are threatened with an excess of native lambs and a series of demoralized markets, so that interesting consumers is imperative if production is to continue on a profitable basis. The native lamb always has been a price smasher and always will be until distributive and consumption conditions are changed.

"Indiana contemplates periodical meetings in every important town in the state, local members furnishing the essential carcasses for boning and cooking demonstrations. Last year such demonstrations promptly created such a demand for lamb and mutton that local butchers' sales increased 50 to 75 per cent within a week. Packers complain that popular demand is for chops and legs, our method being to convince people that plate and breast cuts are superior in flavor and far more economical. Our boning and cooking demonstrations are made by domestic science teachers from Purdue University, instructors after boning a shoulder, cooking the meat and passing it around. We have had interested audiences of housekeepers everywhere and after becoming initiated they are permanent users of lamb. Hotel and restaurant people are invited, the fact being notorious that unpopularity of these meats in public eating places is due to improper cooking. If half the restaurants in Indiana's small towns could be induced to push lamb and mutton a vast increase in consumption would ensue.

"Lamb chops are easily cooked and should vary the monotony of ham and eggs on the American breakfast table. Eggs are no longer cheap, neither are bacon and ham but the public is wedded to this time-honored combination and can be weaned only by the process of education. Let us preach the merit of lamb chops for breakfast, lamb stew for lunch and roast lamb for dinner; tell the consuming public of the many ways in which the cheaper

parts of the carcasses may be prepared to be attractive in a gastronomic sense and the campaign will soon be over. At present packers depend for an outlet principally on flat dwellers in the big cities, New York being a dumping ground. Whenever supply exceeds a limited demand dealers have no alternative but to consign the excess to freezers where it constitutes a menace to the future market, being taken out at the first opportunity to be converted into cash. This system means a summer and fall accumulation to depress the winter market.

"I have in mind a system of county organizations by which the whole industry could be benefited. At every county seat a cheap building could be secured, at which periodical gatherings would discuss trade conditions. Wool could be assembled and sold, eliminating the country dealer who takes excessive toll on every pound he handles. Indiana is interesting the boys, Tippecanoe County having two boys' clubs, one for grades, the other purebreds, and by this agency we believe lamb raising can be greatly stimulated. In practice our boys frequently club together to rent pastures, the county organizations furnishing them with rams until they are able to branch out on their own account.

"But the problem of the hour is undoubtedly increased consumption. How to accomplish this speedily and most effectively is up to the grower, who must have a wider and more reliable market if the farm flock is to thrive. Our plan will leave the great stockyard markets to Western breeders and cornbelt feeders, absorbing the bulk of native lamb product in communities where it is grown. To materially increase production under present conditions will merely aggravate the periodical gluts that smash prices and do the industry incalculable harm. The Indiana plan will be distinctly to the advantage of the Western breeder as our farmer will buy his ewes by the million head annually, neither they nor their progeny going back to the big markets to create gluts. If every state east of the Mississippi River will invoke its county organization facilities

in this campaign, I believe we will soon establish a more satisfactory condition, both for the farmer and the Western breeder. A more opportune time could not be imagined for such a campaign, but to make it effective we must get close to the consumer. I would suggest educational effort along similar lines in the larger towns and smaller cities where the industrial population could be easily reached, women being instructed not only in cooking methods, but values, it being a notorious fact that retailers exact excessive profits on both lamb and mutton. The American public should consume as much lamb per capita as do the English and I believe will, if energetic steps are taken to put the attractive features of the matter before them."

WESTERN READJUSTMENT PROBLEMS TO BE DISCUSSED

The progressive business men and farmers of the great West will meet in Omaha, February 18 to 20, to discuss their pressing problems at the Trans-Mississippi Readjustment Congress.

The Chamber of Commerce of the United States has sent its assistant secretary, D. A. Skinner, and the chief of its Organization Service Bureau, Colvin B. Brown, from Washington to Omaha to co-operate with the Omaha Chamber of Commerce in completing plans for the big congress, which will be in many respects a duplicate of the Atlantic City conference in December.

Governors and prominent citizens from every state west of the Mississippi will be invited to participate in the congress and listen to messages from national leaders of business, agriculture and labor.

The object of the congress is to chart the course of business in the readjustment period; to develop a constructive program for the advance of agriculture, industry and labor through discussion in group meetings and general assemblies; to carry to every section of the great producing Trans-Mississippi country the message of "Business Forward."

WYOMING IN GENERAL

The weather man has made as nearly perfect a beginning of the new year as has been known by men engaged in the live stock business. Temperatures above normal have prevailed all the month, while snow has been very sparing, although generally enough for practical purposes, with the possible exception of the high fall over the central and northern parts. Feed on the range is generally good except in the southern section where last year's dry summer curtailed grass. For once the sheepmen has been favored by the elements in that to date little feed has been required and the high-priced cottonseed cake will be made to extend over more territory than for several years.

Trading is practically at a standstill. Few men know where they are at. They are, however, not getting panicky as they do sometimes, but are tending to their sheep and awaiting spring and marketing time before trying to liquidate. We have heard of but one sale, in the northern part of the state, in which an entire outfit was transferred to Frank Hudson of Lander, in which the ewes were figured at \$15 a head. We have heard of some ewes being offered for April first delivery at \$17.

Wool prospects are looking better, and there seems to be less reason for alarm at unreasonable reductions in values on the coming clip. If the government keeps its latest promises there is no reason for any slump or panic. There is not an unusually large quantity of wool, either on hand or in prospect, unless quantities of Australasian wools should be released by the English government and sufficient shipping be secured for its transportation, both of which are highly impossible; and in any case British values will compel fair values in this country.

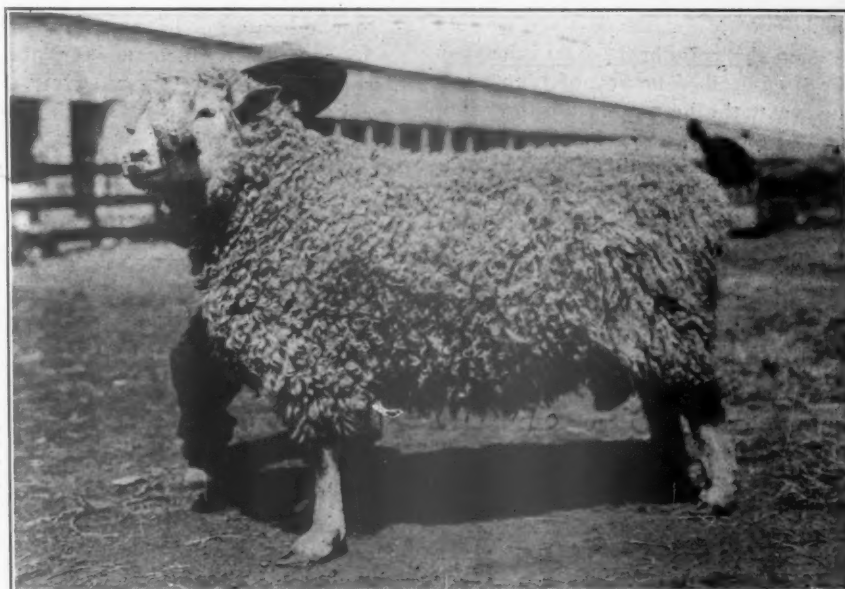
To date fat lamb markets have been very unsatisfactory, fat lambs selling one to three dollars per hundredweight lower than either pork or beef. This is entirely uncalled for and looks like an attempt to take away from the feeder all he has made in the last few years.

We understand that the feeders in the San Luis Valley this year have pretty well marketed at an average loss of one to two dollars a head. Northern Colorado has scarcely begun shipping yet, with indications of the general marketward movement being thirty to sixty days later than usual. Weather there has been good and stuff in feed lots is making good gains. Numbers are but little more than half of those of former years.

In these uncertain times of reconstruction and readjustment of values there is no occasion for the sheepmen to get scared. With all the more-

enough of government operation of railroads to do them a whole life time. The car shortage last fall was very acute and when a person did get cars it took nearly a life time to reach the market. One train of lambs was twenty days between Huntington and Chicago and sheepmen can imagine what they looked like on arrival. I believe most Oregon men want the railroads turned back to their owners as soon as possible.

There is much complaint in some parts of Oregon about the price that has been paid for this year's wool in Portland. The men who shipped East



A Knollin Cotswold Stud Ram

sheep propaganda and apparently high prices, sheep population is not as much now as it was at the beginning of the war. People must wear clothes and some of them eat meat, and they will be compelled to pay a fair price for both wool and mutton. If values for these products drop, values of other commodities must drop in proportion, so that the sheep industry will not be worse off comparatively than other industries.

ROSCOE WOOD.

BAD RAILROAD SERVICE

Most Oregon sheepmen have had

seem to have received more money by five or six cents a pound.

C. X. JENES.

FROM CENTRAL WASHINGTON

We have had so far a mild winter, had very good green grass until it froze about three weeks ago. We now have about five inches of snow, but the ground froze a foot deep before the snow came, so chances are little of the moisture will ever go into the ground.

Last week we had a very good wool growers' meeting in Yakima. It was the largest we ever had in this state. Next year's meeting will be held in

Walla Walla. Since the government refused to take over the wool for another year, sheepmen do not seem to know just where they are at and are afraid the speculators will try to force prices down some on this year's clip. Breeding ewes are more plentiful and are three to four dollars cheaper than a year ago when everybody wanted to get into the sheep business. There has been very little trading done in this line. Lambs are about two dollars a head lower than last year at this time and there are quite a few for sale in this state as well as in Oregon. Aged fat ewes are harder to sell in this part of the country than they have been for the last five years. A year ago we sold ours off the grass in the fall of the year for \$10 a head. The first of January of this year, the best offer for the same kind of ewes was \$7 a head after putting \$1.90 in feed and labor into them. Hay is from \$15 to \$18 a ton in Yakima Valley, or from \$22 to \$24 baled. Corn in the ear is \$40 a ton; oats, \$65; barley, \$58. Wages are from \$75 to \$100 a month for herders and packers. Before the first of January or as soon as the government lifted the embargo on the wool, dry pelts dropped from 40 cents a pound to 23 cents. Many of the sheepmen have received only part of the wool money up to date for last year's clip and some none of it at all. I have not yet all of the returns on my 1917 clip. Up to the present time my fine wool is gone, but my coarse light wool is still unpaid for. It surely keeps a sheepman guessing where he is going to land with no knowledge as to what wool and lambs are going to bring this season and expenses still growing higher. It was very easy for sheepmen to run up wages out of sight, but it is a different proposition to cut them down where they should be. My idea was to make \$75 a month the going wages after January 1, 1919, as that is a good living wage and far safer than the business of the man who has thousands of dollars invested and does not know whether he is going to make both ends meet.

K. O. KOHLER, Washington.

IN WESTERN IDAHO

We are having a very nice winter here in this part of Idaho, although it has been very cold until the last few days. Eighteen below was the coldest. The Lincolns and Hampshires are wintering well. We are feeding about two and one-half pounds of hay and three pounds of corn silage, which makes a much better feed than straight hay. This is my first experience in feeding silage and I certainly think it is a great feed.

I sold to Mr. R. H. Burns of New-castle, Colorado, on January 3, 105 head of purebred Lincoln ewes, which will make him a good foundation flock of Lincolns. The demand for good Lincoln ewes has been very strong. I have had to turn down several good offers. I expect to have an extra good lot of both Lincolns and Hampshires for the Salt Lake Sale in August.

CHARLES HOWLAND, Idaho.

CONDITIONS IN SOUTHERN ARIZONA

Range conditions in southern Arizona seem to indicate feed on the desert for lambing, which will commence about February 15. We have had several good rains and the green feed has started; but a week of extremely cold weather, that is for this locality, has retarded its growth. The weather is moderating and everything points to more rains. It then all rests with the question of getting warm weather to bring the feed out rapidly. Sheep are wintering very well up to date. Quite a few thousand old ewes are being lambled in the Salt River Valley and sheepmen report good lamb crops and light losses. A good year is sorely needed in Arizona.

H. J. GRAY, Arizona.

PROSPECTS GOOD IN OREGON

So far we have had a very favorable season for stock. Though sheep came home from the mountains last fall generally somewhat below par, good fall rains started the grass and they

did better than hold their own for a couple of months. The last week of December and the first two of this year were moderately cold and dry. Since then we have had a lot of Chinook wind with rain and soft snow, giving the ground a pretty good wetting and promising good spring grass, already starting in sheltered places. The herders and camp tenders must have made good in the United States service, as the powers that be seem very loathe to let them return. It is to be hoped that a lot of them will be turned loose before the lambing season, or we will surely be up against it for help this spring.

H. C. ROOPER, Oregon.

WASHINGTON WOOLS

This will give you an idea of how the Portland appraisers have put the hooks into the Washington grower. When clips have been split and part sent to Boston and part to Portland, the difference in prices has run from two to four cents in favor of Boston. Again the tag deduction is from three to five times as great at Portland; furthermore, Portland refuses to pay for the wool sacks. The wool growers from this section feel pretty bad. With big losses, poor help, high-priced feed, to be robbed by unjust appraisers out of about one-fifth of their wool is the last straw.

We have had a mild winter up to date. The sheep are in good condition. Hay is still high, costing \$25 to \$28 a ton. The wool situation is a bad one just now, but we hope it will be settled by shearing time.

JAMES M. DAVIS, Washington.

PHILADELPHIA LAMB MARKET

Philadelphia, Pa.—The records of the Bureau of Markets show that the local slaughter of sheep and lambs for the months of October, November and December, 1918, increased 45.3 per cent, as compared with the corresponding period of 1917. Lambs constitute 75 to 80 per cent of the total sheep and lambs slaughtered.



"62"—For whom I paid \$6,200 at Salt Lake Ram Sale.

RAMBOUILLETS

The photos in this advertisement show two of my stud rams. "62" is the ram for which I paid \$6,200 at the Salt Lake Sale, and "John Bill" is his half brother. All of my rams are of this type—my ewes are their equal in size and quality.

FOR 1919 I OFFER

**1300 Rambouillet Range
Rams and 100 Rambouillet
Stud Rams**

C. N. STILLMAN
SIGURD, UTAH



"John Bill," the mate to "62."

Union Wool Company

Union Land & Cattle Company

J. E. Gosling, Agent

314' Ness Building
Salt Lake City, Utah

Dealers In

Wool Sheep

—and—

Cattle

Boston Office—10 High Street

San Francisco Office—First National Bank Building

Reno Office—Reno National Bank Bldg.



THICKSET, JR.
1st Prize Ram Lamb Chicago International 1916. 1st Prize
Yearling Ram Chicago International 1917

F. S. KING Bros. Co.

LARAMIE, WYOMING

BREEDERS OF
**Rambouillet
and
Corriedale
Sheep**

Rambouillets---RAMS---Crossbreds

The wool from our entire flock of Rambouillets, amounting to about 100,000 pounds was appraised within a fraction of 60 cents per pound—and this included the wool from our stud rams and the shorter wool shorn in March from 1,500 ram lambs. We believe this to be an unusually high price for range-raised Rambouillet wool. It speaks well for the type of rams we are raising—big, smooth, heavy-wooled but free from excessive grease.

For 1919 we offer 1,500 Rambouillet range rams and 900 Lincoln-Rambouillet Crossbred rams.



A Group of Our Range Raised Rambouillets.

Cunningham Sheep & Land Co.

Pilot Rock OREGON

RAMS EWES COTSWOLDS FOR 1919

We desire to advise our many patrons that we have completely sold out of Cotswold rams and ewes for 1918 and to thank them for their very liberal patronage.



A Few of Our Stud Rams—Photo Taken March 20, 1918.

We are receiving many requests for Cotswold ram lambs but we do not desire to sell our ram lambs as we carry them all over to be sold as yearlings.

**For 1919 we will offer
700 Yearling Cotswold Registered Range Rams
50 Cotswold Stud Rams, and
a few Registered Ewes**

Deseret Sheep Co.
BOISE, IDAHO

Mountain Dell Rambouillets



We have the largest flock of Registered Rambouillets in America. At the Salt Lake Ram Sale in 1916 we bought the two highest priced Rams sold. At the 1917 sale we sold the highest priced Rambouillet ever sold at auction in this country.

At the 1918 sale we distanced all our competitors by selling a ram for \$6200, the world's highest price for a fine wool ram at auction. Our 5 top rams averaged \$2150 each, and our entire consignment averaged higher than any of our competitors. This speaks well for our flock.

We are breeding big, heavy wooled Rambouillets, and offer for 1919, 800 yearling range rams and 300 yearling stud rams.

**We also offer Registered Shorthorn
Cattle and Berkshire Swine**

For Information or Photos, address
John H. Seely & Sons
Mt. Pleasant, Utah

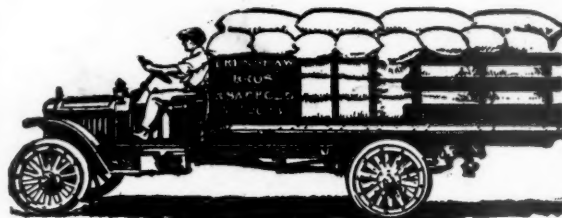
Our 1919 Greetings

Accept our best wishes for continued prosperity and happiness, also our thanks for the favors received from you during the past year.



Harry B. Black
Sheep Commission
Company

SOUTH ST. JOSEPH, MISSOURI



Republic Trucks On the Ranch

Republic Trucks are particularly adapted to the special requirements of ranch work.

Republic Trucks have an Internal Gear Drive with I-beam load-carrying axle of solid forged steel. The driving mechanism is entirely separate from this axle and has nothing to do but drive the truck.

The power is applied near the rim of the wheel, gaining greater leverage for hard pulls. And this Internal Gear Drive permits 45 per cent greater load clearance, a big advantage for country roads.

There is less unsprung weight which means important savings in tires, gasoline and all upkeep expenses. Every part is simple in construction, easy to get at and easy to adjust when necessary.

Dependable-Economical Trouble Proof

The Internal Gear Drive gets extra power for pulling over bad roads and up hard grades by applying power near the rim of the wheel.

Republics are easy riding and easy to drive. And they have proved so dependable and given such superior service to owners that it has been necessary to build more than twice as many of them as any other motor truck in order to supply the demand.

There are seven different Republic Models— $\frac{3}{4}$ ton to 5 ton. One of these models will exactly fill your requirements.

Send today for latest booklet.

Randall-Republic Co.

43 W. 4th South
Salt Lake City

NATIONAL WOOL GROWER

Published Monthly by the National Wool Growers Association Company, (Incorporated)

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REGARDING THE PACKERS

When the Federal Trade Commission investigated the five leading packers it reported that refrigerator cars now owned by the packers should be taken over by the government, so that small butchers would be able to ship meat with the same dispatch as the large packer. Bills are now pending in Congress that prevent the packers from owning refrigerator cars.

When the packing industry was first established on a large scale there were no refrigerator cars for the transportation of fresh meats. About that time certain of the now large packers either developed refrigerator cars or purchased existing patents and began the construction of their own cars for the transportation of fresh meat. The railroads own refrigerator cars now but not in sufficient number to handle the business of the large packers. The larger packers have therefore continued to build and operate their own refrigerator cars and even many of the smaller packers now have their own cars.

Fresh meat is a perishable commodity that cannot wait on railroad companies to furnish the cars needed for its transportation. If one of the large packers desired to load 100 refrigerator cars with meat on a certain date and the railroad company was only able to furnish fifty cars it would mean that the demand for meat at some distant point would not be filled and that fresh

meat would accumulate in the freezers of the packer, which in turn would lessen the demand for live stock. If, for instance, during the past year the packer had not owned his own refrigerator cars we anticipate that a times these packing plants would have been closed awaiting the arrival of cars to take out the stocks of meat that would have accumulated. This would have been disastrous to the live stock industry. If the railroads or the government owned these refrigerator cars they would not only be handling meat, but would be loaded with apples, potatoes and other perishable freights and when the packer wanted them to load meats they would be in Florida loaded with grape fruit or something else. This would not only embarrass the packer but would affect the stockman by making the live stock market more unstable than it now is. Swift & Co. now own 7,000 refrigerator cars for the handling of their business. They operate these cars in such manner that all their meat orders are promptly filled. When they load a car out they know where it goes and see that it is unloaded and returned quickly. Thus their meat never has to wait on cars and in this way the stock market is kept open.

As stockmen we believe that the packer should be permitted to own his refrigerator cars. If the supply of these cars owned by the railroads is not sufficient to meet the needs of the small packers then the small packer himself should construct new ones, or the government or railroad should do it for him. We cannot see, however, any justice in taking the cars away from the big packers when that means disorganization of the entire meat business.

THE HOG MINIMUM

The Food Administration has fixed the minimum price to be paid for hogs during February at \$17.50 per hundred. This should be extremely gratifying to hog raisers even if it is not so considered by the consumer. However, in spite of this fair price, some

hog raisers are attacking the packers and the Food Administration, and certain members of Congress have taken the position that the hog raiser has not been fairly treated.

Early in the campaign to produce more hogs, an agreement was made that the price of hogs should be thirteen times the price of a bushel of No. 2 corn in Chicago. The \$17.50 minimum is almost on that basis even though no effort is now being made to maintain the thirteen to one ratio. Everything considered, hogs at \$17.50 should afford a reasonable profit to the producer.

Of course there is an intimate relation between the price of hogs and the price of corn. Hogs at \$17.50 mean that the present price of corn will be maintained. It's the price of hogs that is keeping up the price of corn. Drop the price of hogs and the price of corn will follow and the price of hogs would undoubtedly decline were it not for the co-operation between the Food Administration and the packer to maintain the price.

Instead of the hog raiser complaining about not getting enough we imagine the sheep and cattle feeders have more reason to complain. These feeders need corn but the minimum on hogs keeps corn so high that it cannot be fed with profit at least to lambs, at its present cost. Corn in the West is so high that sheep feeders cannot use it. This fact has increased the demand for other grains to such an extent that they have also advanced in price to the point that precludes any profit from lamb feeding.

In spite of the fact that the sheepmen are indirectly paying a penalty because of this \$17.50 minimum on hogs, we are in favor of continuing this very arrangement. While we think both the packer and the Food Administration have treated the hog raiser with great fairness, still we are satisfied the farmer is not making an unreasonable profit on hogs. After a great hurrah the government got every farmer to raising hogs and it is under moral obligations to see him out of the transaction without undue loss.

NET PROFIT THE FINAL TEST

While our fat stock shows are to be highly commended and undoubtedly do a world of good, yet it is questionable if they are rendering the exact service that would be the greatest benefit to producers. At these fat stock shows quality is so emphasized that the class of animals often winning do not represent the type that is profitable to produce from the standpoint of the average stockman. For instance, the two prime favorites among fat stock judges are the Polled Angus steer and the Southdown sheep. Occasionally other breeds of cattle or sheep win but when they do it is generally because they have departed from their own breed type and have approached the Angus or Southdown type. Fat show winners must carry extreme quality which of itself bars them from being commercially practicable. That the judgment of the fat stock judge is not the judgment of the great mass of live stock breeders is evidenced by the fact that neither Angus cattle or Southdown sheep are overly popular with the average stockman, which may be taken to mean that they are not the most profitable type to raise under average conditions. Recalling a carload of champion fat Shropshire lambs that created a sensation when shown, we were advised by the owner that he picked out his small, light boned, light woolled end and fitted them for the prize which they easily won. This is exactly the type of lamb which that man tries not to produce. They were not good enough to make Shropshire rams for breeding purposes so they were fitted for fat show winners. This same breeder has one of the best Shropshire flocks in the world simply because he has bred them big, rugged, without too much quality and with heavy bone.

Take a load of lighter lambs, such as the fat stock judge admires, right off grass and they would weigh around seventy pounds. The heavy lamb such as the judge discards would weigh eighty pounds. On the Chicago market, the light lambs would bring possibly \$16.50, the heavy lambs sixteen

cents, but there is seldom this great a spread. The light lambs bring the owners \$11.55 and the heavy lambs \$12.80 per head. This is, of course, assuming that there was a difference of one-half cent per pound in favor of the light lamb which, of course, there is not.

This practical test reverses the judgment of the fat stock judge and explains why the type that wins at the fat stock show is seldom the type that wins for the stock raiser.

CONSUMPTION NEEDED

The world has been saved and in the saving has accumulated the largest stocks of food and raw materials ever known in its history. Our stocks of meat, wheat, live stock, wool, cotton and most other necessities are simply tremendous and more than sufficient to meet all the needs of humanity everywhere. What shall be done with these stocks?

At the earliest moment consumption must be stimulated and further talk about conservation and the starving millions in Europe should be squelched. The conditions in Europe are nowhere half as bad as have been pictured. Our newspaper writers have simply become sensationalists who are incompetent to judge in the first place and in the second place are paid for creating sensations. There is food and raiment enough for all and the sooner this fact becomes known the less will be the danger of a shortage some time hence.

But the consumer answers, if stocks are large we demand a big reduction in prices. This is an unfair position. When the war started the producer said to the army and the consumer: "You proceed with your business; we will see that you have an adequate supply of everything you need." The producer kept his word and to protect the consumer piled up the enormous stocks of supplies that are now in evidence. But in producing these supplies the producer incurred such enormous costs that the price of these stocks cannot be reduced without ser-

iously injuring the producer. Much of this increased cost went to this same consumer who now demands lower prices. The consumer enjoyed greatly increased income during the war. The increased income the producers should have had is tied up in these surplus stocks. Under these circumstances is it fair to ask him to sell below cost of production?

THE OLD EWE

Depreciation in the value of the ewe has been the stumbling block that has prevented most sheepmen from making money. The average flockman has gone out from time to time and purchased a band of yearling ewes and generally he has had to borrow the money to pay for them. While these ewes were young he has seemed to be making money, for as a rule he has failed to recognize that they were depreciating in value. After about five years he wakes up to the fact that these ewes have depreciated in value just 50 per cent and are no longer useful on the range and his banker is called on to assist in replacing them.

Starting with a ewe two years old this spring, five crops of lambs will find her too old to be of substantial service on the range. She will then be six and one-half years of age when the fifth crop of lambs goes to market. If she is kept beyond that time she requires special care and the death loss is very heavy, especially is this true of cross-breeds. If this ewe cost \$15 as a two-year-old she will sell on the market in range condition at \$7.50. She has, therefore, depreciated in value just ten per cent a year. If we figure ten per cent depreciation in the value of the flock each year and add to that a death loss of six per cent, we have accounted for 16 per cent that must be charged against the flock before any net profit can be calculated. This is a heavy drain upon each year's operation that few businesses could stand.

In order to increase his profits the sheepman must attack this feature of depreciation and eliminate as much of it as possible. Of course these ewes

can be sold to farmers, but they will only pay the same as the packer or 50 per cent of first cost. The only solution of this problem is for the sheepman to send these old ewes to the feedlot and finish them for market himself. These ewes can be easily fattened and will return the feeder anywhere from \$1.50 to \$3.00 profit for his trouble. Old ewes are not troublesome to feed and when fattened can usually be sold right in the feedlot. In states like Idaho, Washington, parts of Utah and Colorado as well as Montana, barley and alfalfa are abundant and constitute an excellent ration.

Sheepmen can no longer afford to throw away, say, \$2 a head on their old ewes as they have done in the past.

USE MORE LAMB

The National Wool Growers Association has employed Lieutenant L. L. Heller, formerly with the Department of Agriculture, to take charge of a campaign to increase the consumption of lamb. Lieutenant Heller is a graduate of the Ohio Agricultural College and served for a number of years in the Bureau of Animal Industry and has a wide knowledge of meats and meat foods. Mr. Heller will be stationed in Chicago and will first direct his attention to increasing lamb consumption in the cornbelt. Many very large cities in that section, tributary to the big markets of Chicago and Omaha, are using little if any lamb. Professor Coffey of the University of Illinois has long been studying the lamb situation and Mr. Heller will work with him in pushing this campaign. Later in the season more details of the proposed work will be given out, but the preliminary work was outlined at a meeting held in Chicago early in January. The work of acquainting the public with the merits of lamb will be slow and expensive, but in the end will prove profitable to sheepmen.

A DANGEROUS PROPOSAL

Some of the Bolsheviks of Idaho have suggested that lambs do not pay

any tax to the state as they are shipped before they get on the tax rolls. To meet this it is proposed to place a tax of \$5 on each car of lambs shipped out of the state.

This is the most outrageous proposition we have ever heard of and we know no Idaho legislature would listen to it for a moment and if it did, such a law would be unconstitutional.

The taxes paid upon the ewe and the ram are to cover their products. Wool, wheat, hides, hay, potatoes, apples, etc. are not taxed as they are shipped out of the state before time to assess them. If lambs are to be taxed it will then be necessary to tax every product produced in Idaho, for much of it is shipped out exactly the same as are the lambs. How would the farmer feel if in addition to the tax on his land another tax was assessed on everything the land produced?

The sheep industry is Idaho's largest and most important industry and while it has been crippled by Bolshevik legislation, such as the two-mile-limit and the priority right laws, it still brings more money into Idaho than any other industry.

FARMERS SHOULD USE LAMB

The great mass of American farmers live upon pork or pork products, almost to the exclusion of mutton and lamb. While they consume some fresh pork, the greater portion of their meat diet is salt or cured pork. An exclusive meat diet of this nature is neither healthful nor convenient.

Our farmers should eat more lamb. It is fully as nutritious as pork and when well cooked is more palatable, and, as all will agree, more healthful. To get his fresh meat the farmer slaughters a hog. This is a day's job, involving the labor of the entire household and followed by a train of dirt and trash to be cleaned up. Then the head, feet and liver must be converted into sausage and the fat rendered into lard. Surely it is an excursion into grease.

How much more simple and convenient for the farmer to slaughter a

lamb. In thirty minutes two farm hands will kill and dress a lamb. No filth to clean up afterwards and no labor for the women of the household. Then the carcass can be hung up and eaten while all the meat is fresh and tasty. A dressed lamb weighs from 30 to 40 pounds and it will keep until consumed if given reasonable care.

The United States Department of Agriculture ought to take this matter up and encourage the farmer to vary his meat diet by occasionally butchering a lamb.

SHEARING PRICES

The Wyoming Wool Growers Association decided that for shearing this year they would pay not to exceed 15 cents per head, the shearer to furnish his own board or if boarded a charge of \$1.75 per day would be made for board. This would give the shearer net about 13½ cents for shearing.

In Idaho the shearing question has been discussed and most sheepmen are disposed to pay 12 to 13 cents and furnish board. One outfit of shearers has offered to shear in Idaho at 12½ cents. No doubt, about this basis will be adopted in most Western states.

A LAMB CIRCULAR

As a part of our campaign to increase the use of lamb we have prepared a four-page circular giving the important facts about the meat of the lamb. We wish to put this circular in the hands of as many consumers as possible and will send any number of them free to any party who will agree to enclose one of them in each letter he writes. This circular just fits an envelope and it is but little trouble to insert one in each letter. We expect to print 100,000 of these circulars to be distributed free. Write and tell us how many you can use.

SNYDER DETECTS SCARCITY

W. A. Snyder, the Denver sheep operator, is bullish concerning the future of sheep and lamb trade. Returning

from the East recently he said: "I see no reason why 1919 should not be a satisfactory year for the producer. So far as the immediate future is concerned it is reasonable to expect better prices. Not over 50 per cent of the usual number of lambs are on feed west of the Missouri River. The Arkansas Valley has less than half a crop, northern Colorado, which is handling the largest proportionate supply having not to exceed 65 per cent of what it was carrying a year ago. The Colorado crop went in late and at light weight, consequently it will not move as early as usual, a considerable percentage being strung into May.

NEVADA WINTER RANGE

This is a winter range country and many flocks graze or used to graze, but now browse over these hills. Probably thirty flocks of fifteen to twenty-five hundred sheep cross the Carson River here and about twenty more flocks come through nearby, trailing east and south every year in November and December and back again in March to their lambing ranges along the Sierra foothills. This winter was until now not ideal for sheep on the range, for since December 29, when three inches of snow fell, there has not been any snow; and with only a few watering places, flocks have been shifted rapidly—first from prairie to hilltops for snow, then to canyons and watering places. I have traveled over the range here the past month and everywhere I find the same, "Destruction." Where a few years ago were canyons and hilltops covered with grass and white sage, now only salt brush and Indian tea grow. Up over the plateau country the black sage formerly grew dense and tall; today it is half-dead and browsed down to the ground. Even over the rough country where the grasses lay untouched for years, now only roots indicate that there was grass at one time.

Up on Churchill Creek there is a quarter mile of free water. It is the only free water in many miles. There during the past week after warm days

and mild winds, the Basques came with their flocks for the precious water. They camped by the water and with countrymen made merry by their campfires, for they controlled the water. But water alone cannot sustain life long, and after a few days, those who were not Basques were again able to water their thirsty sheep.

I have talked with many of these Basques and all agree that they are not having anything from their income, as expenses they say are as great, or very nearly so, as the income. They say "expenses," not "losses and expenses." They all employ their own countrymen. They all believe it is extravagance to feed hay or grain to sheep. They all know that they have an undisputable right to graze over government lands, and many of them winter and lamb their flocks on free range; some even summer on such lands. Their expenses are about 20 cents per sheep for summer feed, wages and provision for herders and camp tenders, generally three men for two flocks of about 2,500 sheep, during the winter and five men in the summer—yet they are not "making" money. But their losses they do not consider and they are very heavy too. So here we have the problem that causes many Easterners' hatred for the Western sheepman, as they say, who owns from three to five thousand sheep, most of the year living on free government feed, and whose income is just sufficient to live.

It must be encouraging to those Eastern faddists of the "more-sheep" cry to look over Nevada's sheep increase, for certainly the Basques out here have heeded the cry and in a few years, when the free ranges are utterly destroyed and flocks are sent to slaughter, the farmer will try again to mix sheep and dogs, and our government will be asked to reseed those many hills that once were pastures but now are deserts-made so by winters of little snow and warm, dry summers, so the Basques say.

Two points which bother the sheepmen now are the lower sheep prices and the increase in summer grazing

fees. Those who did not make more than expenses last year had better liquidate now.

Hay can be bought now at from \$13 to \$14 a ton, which is \$4 and \$5 less than three months ago.

The morning of February first found this surrounding country covered by the heaviest snow of the winter, about twelve inches, and now there is water for all those who can find feed, but the feed is scant, and many flocks are living on brush and snow, waiting for the early grass.

Opinion differs. Some believe that the near future will bring another clean-up of the sheep business with lower prices and general stampede to market, while others, the minority, believe firm markets and high prices will rule. However, none can predict as it seems sheep and wool are on the balance just now, awaiting the tide. One thing is certain, a change is in sight here, as the free range will not maintain the present number of sheep, and either ranches with feed will have to be secured to help along with the ruined ranges, or the sheep business closed.

We are and have been feeding hay as we do every winter.

R. E. GUSCETTI, Nevada.

WOULD FAVOR LAMB

I hope you will be successful in arranging an advertising campaign to encourage the use of lamb. Have no suggestions to make as to an advertising campaign that would be of any benefit to you, but don't you think it will do good to touch the individual members of our association up occasionally as to the necessity of beginning the campaign at home? If the sheepmen in their respective communities were to eat more lamb and see to it that the butcher sells lamb as represented and not the lamb's grandmother, we could accomplish a great deal. I make this suggestion from the fact that since your letter came in regard to the "eat-more-lamb" campaign, we have bought nothing but lamb from the shop.

PRAGER MILLER, New Mexico.

RAISING ORPHAN LAMBS

Will C. Barnes

The inquiry in the columns of the Wool Grower for a satisfactory method of raising a number of orphan lambs recalls the system used some years since by a range sheepman in the Yellowstone Valley of Montana. The spring had been a hard one, the ewes were weak and many of them after delivering their woolly progeny safely into this bleak world were too exhausted to recover and the owner found himself facing a considerable loss in lambs as well as ewes.

In this emergency he invented or designed what he called the "Galvanized Iron Ewe." This mechanical mother was evolved from a family washtub into which the village tinner cut small holes and soldered a row of tin spouts two inches long and about six apart. Over these spouts he slipped ordinary rubber nipples such as are used on babies' milk bottles. Partly filled with cow's milk warmed to the proper consistency the hungry little fellows needed but one introduction to their foster mother to realize her good qualities and the value of cultivating her acquaintance frequently and with all diligence while the opportunity lasted.

The photograph shows clearly the way the affair was designed. It must be "staked out" mighty firmly lest the hungry "boarders" in their eagerness to secure full rations punt it over.

The other photograph illustrates the common or garden variety of orphan lamb preserver. I found it in use out in a little Mormon town in Utah engineered by the daughter of a sheepman whose losses from orphan lambs worried the little lady.

So good old "Boss" was trained by the girl to stand and deliver her milk to all comers, calves or sheep, they all looked alike to her. At the time I saw the performance the girl had five or six orphan lambs, part of which she held in leash while two secured their supper. When she decided they had drawn their fair share they were snaked ruthlessly from the teats and two more allowed to take their places. The cow? She never murmured but

just quietly chewed her cud and dreamed of alfalfa fields, and cooling streams. The only objector to the proposition was the young calf that claimed family relations with the cow. That unfortunate and somewhat beligerent chap was shut up in a nearby pen watching through the bars the operations which were reducing very rapidly the visible supply of his daily food.

I fancy the bovine names that calf called those wobbly legged lambs that were interfering with his means of sustenance and the variety of things he said about them and their forebears would have made the remarks of a Mexican sheep herder trying to capture a shy hobbled horse out on the



A Montana Lamb Feeder

range sound like a quotation from the Forest Service Use Book. I'll bet that calf disliked a sheep as badly and fiercely as our friend, Emerson Hough, who it is said hates a sheep so violently that he refuses to wear wool socks.

However the calf didn't show any of the characteristics of being what we used to call "Churn-dashed" by a good deal and I fancy the young lady who was doing what some people swear can't be done, namely, graze sheep and cattle on the same range, saw to it that the lambs didn't get it all.

So far as I know there are no patents on either of these methods. Remember, however, that in such a plan "cleanliness is next to godliness" and even a little more, for the galvanized ewe needs plenty of boiling hot water

applied liberally and thoroughly after every feeding to every part of her, metal and rubber, outside and inside.

TEXAS SHEEP FEEDERS MEET

The sheepmen of Texas who are interested in the finishing of lambs for market are invited to attend the Second Annual Sheep Feeders' Meeting scheduled to be held at Spur, Dickens County, March 1. The results of the lamb feeding test in which several crosses are being compared with the straight Rambouillet will be announced at this meeting.

The morning session will be held at the feed lots at the experiment station and the results of the experiment will be given in detail. A program is being arranged to be held in town during the afternoon. A number of livestock specialists, prominent stockmen, and business men have been invited to discuss important topics, and it is hoped that all stockmen in the surrounding country will arrange their affairs in order that they might be in attendance at this meeting. The program which is being arranged will be available for publication within the next few days.

J. W. W. JONES.

AFTER THE BUSHWACKER DEALER

A popular movement at present all over the cornbelt is organizing county and state sheep clubs. The movement indicates grievances, most of them growing out of present unsatisfactory methods of marketing wool. The bushwacker country dealer who practices a peculiar variety of larceny, grand or petit, is the object of ex-coriating, the purpose of the organizers being to establish the pooling system of marketing clips. Incidentally these organizations are advocating small farm flocks, denouncing the dog evil and planning formation of boy and girl clubs. It is significant that few of them have given the least consideration to the problem of increasing mutton consumption.

HOW THE CROSSBRED HAS DISPLACED THE MERINO

(London Wool Record.)

In his annual address, Mr. James Kidd, president of the Sheepbreeders' Association of New South Wales, recently dealt with the increasing percentage of crossbred wool coming on to the market. He said that there is, perhaps, just a little too much eagerness to breed crossbred sheep to the detriment of the Merino, and it must not be overlooked that for the length and breadth of Australia, the Merino fills the bill. Wool, and Merino wool particularly, must be a big asset when this war is through, and while no one can decry the advantage of the British breeds in certain districts, it is to the Merino we owe the greater part of our wealth. The gradual increasing percentage of crossbred wool to Merino in Australia is shown in the figures taken from his address:

	Merino	Crossbred
1900-1	83	17
1904-5	86½	13½
1908-9	81	19
1912-13	76½	23½
1916-17	73½	26½

from which it will be seen that the growth is a steadily progressive one. The true average, however, can only be obtained, says the "Pastoral Review," by taking the proportion that the clip of each state bears to the whole season's production, and if this method is followed, the increase would be a much greater one. This is borne out by the fact that in Sydney, where some 40 per cent of the clip is handled, the proportion has changed from 94 per cent of Merino, and 6 per cent of crossbred in 1900-1, to 80 per cent of Merino and 20 per cent of crossbred in 1916-17, while in Victoria, the home of the small grower, the change is more apparent as the Melbourne figures show, viz.:—1900-1, Merino, 70 per cent; crossbred, 30 per cent; 1916-17, Merino, 47 per cent; crossbred, 53 per cent. In New Zealand the Merino flocks are now in small compass, but the heavy losses of sheep this winter through the snow storms may have the effect of turning attention to the Mer-

ino again for high country, if it is proved they have come through the best.

There are living today old wool men who can bear testimony to the radical change which has taken place in pastoral conditions in New Zealand, and particularly to the changed character of wool supplies. The clip of the Dominion has changed thoroughly during the past twenty-five years. Today only 50,000 Merinos are being pastured, whereas a quarter of a century ago 80 per cent were Merinos. This is all the outcome of the development of the freezing industry, the writer well remembering the inception of this great trade. When it was first contemplated, the killing of sheep and bringing them home in cold storage, was regarded with a good deal of scepticism, and many cargoes were spoilt. However, scientific knowledge and experience have solved the problem, and being able to reduce the temperature of the holds of ships below freezing point has been the means of completely changing the character of the New Zealand flocks. We should say today that at least 85 to 90 per cent of the sheep being pastured in New Zealand are crossbreds. The establishment of big freezing works and producing a larger-framed sheep, what we call a dual-purpose sheep, growing both a marketable carcass of mutton and a good commercial fleece of wool, have brought to pastoralists in the Dominion far more wealth than they could possibly have reaped by simply adhering to the rearing of Merinos. Of course, pasturage and climate are both well suited for breeding and rearing mutton sheep, whereas Australia seems best suited for the Merino unless it be the coastal areas. The New Zealand climate is more like that of England than Australia, or even South Africa, and the flocks of New Zealand being today very largely crossbred, are destined to remain so to the end of all time.

CHEAPER CLOTHING

Although the trend of clothing values will undoubtedly be toward

lower levels as time works along, there is a pronounced indisposition to shade war prices. Cost of fabrics has actually increased since the European armistice was declared, rents are advancing and labor cost is mounting, the several unions taking advantage of the opportunity to secure increased scales before demobilization creates a labor surplus. Maintenance of war prices for clothing means economy, restriction in wool consumption and an accumulation. The mill situation is also adverse to heavy consumption, many looms being idle. Unrest in labor circles at Eastern wool manufacturing centers has been another factor in keeping wool in the original package.

SOUTH NOT BUYING SHEEP

Efforts to establish sheep flocks in the South are not reaching the fruition stage with any degree of celerity. Outside Kentucky and Tennessee little progress is to be detected. The South is getting into hogs in a manner that threatens over-production of pork within a few years and in a lesser degree is investing money into cattle.

"The whole cotton country is buying breeding hogs regardless of cost," said a dealer, who recently took ten carloads of registered stock into Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, realizing an average of \$80 a head. "I had one inquiry for sheep on my last trip through those states and that was inspired by curiosity. A flock of sheep is rare and when one is sighted its condition speaks eloquently of neglect. The colored brother can be utilized to look after hogs, but is worthless as a shepherd and the plantation owner wants live stock of the self-sustaining variety, consequently the hog and the steer have distinct advantages. The South is undoubtedly a good sheep country, but the present generation of farmers, white or black, will not develop the industry for the reason that it lacks sheep sense. One thing the South will do if it continues its present policy and that is create a surplus of hog product that will put the hog market through another period of low prices and incidental tribulation."

Boston Wool Market

By Our Boston Correspondent

Conditions in the wool market seem to have settled down for a long pull in disposing of the government's holdings, with a correspondingly long drawn out dislocation of private business. That the appeal of the wool growers for consideration has been heard at Washington is shown by the announcement of January 24 that the auction sales of domestic wools would be continued until July 1, and would then be discontinued for a time, probably until November 1, in order not to compete with the new clip of domestic wool. The text of the announcement, which is easily the most important happening of the month from the wool growers' standpoint, is as follows:

"1. It is the intention of the War Department to continue to sell at public auction such wools as manufacturers may require, with a minimum reserve price the equivalent of the British civil issue price. This basis of the British issue price will be maintained as a minimum reserve price until July 1, 1919.

"2. It is not the intention of the War Department, in the sale of wool now owned by the government, to compete with the domestic producers of wool. It is the intention of the War Department on July 1, 1919, when the domestic clip will be probably arriving in the market in sufficient volume to supply the wants of manufacturers, to discontinue offering at auction, or otherwise, those grades of wool remaining in the hands of the government, that would compete with the product of domestic wool growers, until such time as the domestic producers shall have had ample opportunities to market the 1919 clip, or in other words, Nov. 1, 1919."

Taken in connection with the establishment of the minimum prices ruling at the government wool auctions, as announced by the committee of the Boston Wool Trade Association, appointed "to examine the official catalogue of the 'British Issue Prices on

Wool for Civilian Purposes,' in order that a representative list of parity prices on wool offered at the government auction sales could be published"—official intention and practice seems to have been established for the first half-year. This marks the progress that has been made in stabilizing the market during the past month. This has already been noted in the results of the auction sales, here and in Philadelphia, which have been much more satisfactory since the announcement, with manufacturers and other buyers showing more confidence.

For purpose of comparison, the following table, showing the prices established as of July 30, 1917, the government issue prices of May 15, 1918, and the present government minimum prices, all being figured on the clean scoured basis, and for choice wools, will be of interest:

	Price List July 30, 1917	Gov. Issue.	Auction
		Price May 15, 1918	Minimum Prices Jan. 14, 1919
Fine and fine medium staple.....	\$1.80	\$1.90	\$1.49
Fine and fine medium clothing.....	1.70	1.80	1.43
Half-blood staple	1.68	1.80	1.43
Half-blood clothing	1.60 to 1.62	1.70	1.30
High three-eighths-blood staple.....	1.45	1.60	1.32
High three-eighths-blood-clothing	1.42	1.55	—
Average three-eighths-blood staple.....	1.40	1.55	1.19
Average three-eighths-blood clothing	1.37	1.52	1.12
Low three-eighths-blood staple	1.35	1.50	1.11
Low three-eighths-blood clothing	1.32	1.48	1.05
High quarter-blood staple	1.32	1.45	1.01
High quarter-blood clothing	1.30	1.40	.94
Average quarter-blood staple	1.28	1.40	.93
Average quarter-blood clothing	1.26	1.38	.87
Low quarter-blood staple	1.17	1.25	.86
Common and braid	1.07	1.17	.74

Above prices are for choice wools in each case. In the July 30 price list wools in average condition were priced 2 to 5 cents below choice, and inferior wools 4 to 10 cents below choice; and in the government issue list, average wools were priced 2 to 5 cents and inferior wools 5 to 15 cents below choice. In making up the auction minimum prices, the committee added 5 per cent to the British issue prices to allow for the increased shrinkage of wool in this country, and figured average types at

3 cents less, and inferior types 7 cents less than choice. All above quotations are on the scoured basis.

Prices quoted in the third column indicate clearly the enormous shrinkage that has been made by the government in its current stocks of wool. Although some lots in recent sales sold above these figures, the tendency of buyers has been to hug the minimum list as closely as possible. All government business has been based on the clean cost, this being the actual amount of wool contained in any lot suitable for use, and eliminating all grease, dirt, burrs, and other foreign substances. Grease prices would show the same percentage of loss as the scoured basis. As a matter of fact, the government is losing 10 to 15 cents per pound in the grease on many lots now being sold at the auctions.

Announcement has already been

made, and referred to above, of the government's intention to maintain prices on the present basis until July 1, and to feed out the wool only as fast as needed by manufacturers. In this problem must be considered what the British government will do with its stocks, already very large, and bound to increase at the point of consumption in the near future. These wools are owned on a much lower basis than has prevailed in this country, either before or after the United States gov-

FOR SALE

1000 SPLENDID Rambouillet Ewes with Excellent Government Summer Range Rights. Leases on Winter Range. Our home Alfalfa Ranch—irrigated.

With these qualifications

First:

A splendid paying sheep business.

Secondly:

One which is situated just half an hour's ride on the Pacific Highway from S. Oregon's most up-to-date city, Medford, offering all the advantages of the city. No isolated, lonely sage brush conditions.

Thirdly:

This Mild, Delightful climate necessitates comparatively little feeding.

Fourthly:

No Big Range investment necessary. We have leases.

Our Larger Interests Elsewhere Demand Our Time.

Rosenberg Bros.
Medford, Ore.

Kentucky SHEEP RANCH

I offer for sale or lease 2,040 acres of rolling land 700 feet above sea level—well watered with springs and running stream. Good soil and subsoil—fine open grass land ideal for sheep. This land is situated in Christian County, Kentucky, only three miles from railroad and good town with hard surfaced roads. On main auto line from Great Lake to Florida. Only three hours to Evansville, Indiana. Near good schools and churches and in a good neighborhood. This is an ideal stock ranch in one of the best sections of America.

For particulars address John T. Jackson, Hopkinsville, Ky.

Colorado SHEEP RANGE

Have 1,000 acres ranch property. No buildings, but within five miles of fine summer range. Want to interest someone with sheep in a summer proposition to utilize it. Address RANGE, National Wool Grower, Salt Lake City, Utah.

ernment took over control, and in a wide open market England would be able to undersell both the United States government and the wool growers in this country.

Removal of all restrictions on importations of foreign wool has already been accomplished, except that as a matter of form, intending importers must obtain a license from Washington, and that all importations, pending the signing of the peace treaty, must come from non-enemy countries. Some form of protection must be adopted by Congressional action at once, if competition is to be avoided. With less than a month for the present Congress to live, and all the big appropriation bills pressing for action, it is doubtful if time will be found for any protective legislation, as the administration will keenly desire that none of the appropriation bills shall be thrown over for consideration by a Republican house.

Moreover, the attitude of the President and the Democratic leaders in Congress on this question of protection to the wool grower is not yet clear. "Much water has run under the mill" since the free trade policy was adopted in 1913. In other words, the whole wool situation is "up in the air," and he is a wise prophet that can intelligently forecast the happenings of the coming wool season. There is a general belief in the East that the country is on the threshold of a tremendous business boom, but such opinions, when analyzed, are found to generally rest on the possibility of an enormous shrinkage in the cost of raw material and labor.

Labor's answer has already been given. Shorter hours and more pay are demanded at a time when the inevitable readjustments from war-time prices to peace levels are being faced. This matter is to be fought out during the coming month, but the question of the cost of the raw material does not come within such narrow limits. Stabilization of prices is being demanded by everyone interested in production, from wool grower to retailer, but all these things leave out of consideration the interests of the

consumer, and his cry for relief from the intolerable burden of taxation, whether expressed in actual tax bills, or in the form of exorbitant prices for clothing, food, etc.

Shearing is due to commence shortly in Arizona and other warm sections of the Territory wool belt, and this wool will be pressing for sale in Eastern wool markets. Notice has been plainly served on the wool trade that it will be wise to market the new clip between July 1 and Nov. 1, unless the owner is prepared to carry his wool over into another year. Basis of values cannot be expected to be above the government's minimum prices, except for very choice clips. In this market, it seems to be the general expectation that 1919 is to be a consignment year. Dealers have no incentive to buy, unless the wool is to be had at prices sufficiently below the government minimum to assure a fair profit in the handling, while manufacturers will feel no compulsion to go beyond that level, as they can buy enough wool between now and July to carry them over the summer, or at least to make them independent of the market fluctuations during that period.

During the closing days of January, the casual observer was able to now and then find a wool salesman or broker on Summer street, with rolls of wool samples under his arm. Wool thus available for free sale is still limited in quantity, and mainly consists of off lots that have been thrown on the market by mills having no use for that particular grade, or of foreign wool arriving here for customhouse entry subsequent to the date fixed by the Quartermaster Corps, after which no more wool of the kind would be taken. These things are interesting as showing the slow way that the wool trade is being rehabilitated. Its members are functioning mainly as bankers and warehousemen, and in this way are finding a use for their free capital.

That this is by no means a small matter, is shown by the terms under which all government wool is sold at the auctions. Terms of sale read: "Deliveries of all wool shall be taken

Lincolns Cotswolds RAMS

We offer for this season
Yearling Lincoln and
Cotswold Rams both
flockheaders and range
Rams. Also a few cars
of Ram Lambs.

Also 50 Imported Lin-
coln Ewes. These are
high class sheep.

R. S. ROBSON & SON
Denfield, Ontario, Canada

Baldwin Sheep Company

Hay Creek, Oregon

Breeders of registered and range
**Rambouillet
Sheep**

Carlots a Specialty

All Sold Out for 1918

WANTED

HEAVY SHEARING Lincoln
ewes wanted. We will pay from
\$100 to \$500 each for quality stuff.

LINCOLN FARMS CO.,
Plateau City, Colo.

within fourteen days from date of purchase. Terms, net cash upon presentation of documents and before delivery." Cash or certified checks are demanded in all cases. This is where the dealers fit in the present scheme. It is common talk along the "Street" that the smaller mills are being financed in this way in their purchases of wool. Nothing else, it is argued, could explain certain trade buying in recent sales.

Already buyers have run across one snag in buying wool at the government auctions; whether the lots sold have one month's or ten months' storage charges attached. It has been promised that coming catalogues shall contain the term of storage as well as the place, the latter having been included hitherto. Other outs about the government sales, from the buyer's standpoint, are found in the fact that purchases must be taken at sworn weighers' weights at the time of purchase, regardless of any shrinkage in storage. Exceptions are with Australian wool bought by the Quartermaster Corps direct from the British government. Australian shipping weights must be taken; and in the case of South American wool bought by the syndicate or the representatives of the United States, South American shipping weights, on which the wool was invoiced to the government, shall be taken. Bag or bale coverings are to be taken at cost to the government, and are not returnable.

All these things add measurably to the cost of the wool, and have made buyers think twice before bidding on particular lots. Lots that were supposed to have been bought low sometimes turn out to have been much more costly than expected. All these things are only another way of saying that wool men are still fixing their eyes on the trifling things of business, and are not yet able to take the wider view. They are coming back, but have not yet arrived. For the prompt and economical handling of the 1919 domestic clip, the comeback of the wool trade is essential, since the government can hardly be depended upon to again become the sole purchaser.

In foreign fields, the outlook is fully as uncertain as at home. Great Britain has abandoned its efforts to control the South African clip, since it has been found impossible to make any working agreement with the Boer farmers of the Cape Colony and the South African Republic. So little wool was offered to the British government under the offer of last summer, that it was hardly worth while to persist. Japan and the United States are now at liberty to buy wool there, but prices are still too high and shipping too scarce.

Australia is closed to buyers from this country, as the clips of New Zealand and Australia are pledged to the British government for another wool year. When the armistice was signed, negotiations were pending for the sale to the United States of 300,000 bales of Australian and New Zealand wool in addition to that previously noted. Efforts were at once made to get out of this bargain, but though no official statement has yet been made, shipments are being made, and latest reports indicate that 30,000 bales have recently been shipped direct to this country. Over 140,000 bales of Australian wool are still in the hands of the government available for sale at the auctions.

In the South American field, conditions are also uncertain, though prices are reported to be advancing. Several of the larger Boston houses have buyers in the Buenos Aires market, and it is understood that they are ready to operate heavily as soon as word to that effect is received from this country. Shipping has been exceedingly scarce in the South American trade, but that is being steadily improved, and conditions are expected to be normal before long.

In this market, the valuation committees are still working, but their labors are drawing to a close. Most of the big houses are through with their work on domestic wool, and all are expected to complete the grading and valuing by the first of March. As this work slackens, the inevitable result is to magnify the distribution, which for manifest reasons must be confined to the government auctions for months

JANUARY SHEEP RUN HEAVY

Receipts of sheep and lambs at the five principal Western markets, Chicago, Kansas City, Omaha, St. Louis and St. Joseph, during January were 869,000 head, against 792,000 last year when the movement was curtailed by storms. The big increase was at Chicago and was due to cleaning up the crop of Western lambs put in last fall by Indiana, Illinois and Iowa farmers, few arriving from points west of the Missouri River. Kansas City had a run of nearby stuff, with a delegation from the Arkansas Valley, but reported a light month's business as did also Omaha and St. Joseph.

Chicago receipts were 442,000, against 289,000 last year. Omaha reported 205,000 against 244,000; Kansas City, 108,000, against 148,000; St. Louis, 26,000, against 35,000, and St. Joseph 68,000, against 74,000 in 1917.

Visible supply for the next 100 days is light, but as consumptive demand is restricted, there will probably be enough to go around.

WOOL CONSUMED IN THE UNITED STATES IN 1919

Washington, D. C.—Seven hundred and forty million pounds of wool, grease equivalent, were used by manufacturers in the United States during 1918. Much of this wool went into clothes for soldiers, while the old clothes man called in vain for the shiny and patched garments worn by civilians at home.

Military needs kept the monthly consumption of wool to an average of 65,500,000 pounds, grease equivalent, for the first ten months of 1918, but in November it fell to 47,000,000, and in December to 38,300,000 pounds, as announced by the Bureau of Markets, United States Department of Agriculture.

Massachusetts mills used more wool in 1918 than any other four states combined. After Massachusetts in order came: Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Ohio, and Maine.

During May mills used 74,600,000 pounds of wool, grease equivalent, the largest monthly consumption reported, while March and April each showed more than 70,000,000 pounds used by manufacturers.

CHICAGO WHOLESALE

MEAT PRICES

Lamb

Medium lambs	@26
Round dressed lambs.....	@28
Saddles, medium	@30
R. D. lamb fores.....	@24
Lamb fores, medium.....	@22
R. D. lamb saddles.....	@32
Lamb fries, per pound.....	19 @20
Lamb tongues, each.....	@ 4
Lamb kidneys, per pound.....	@25

Mutton

Medium sheep	@18
Good sheep	@21
Medium saddles.....	@24
Good saddles	@26
Good fores	@16
Medium racks	@14
Mutton legs	@26
Mutton loins	@22
Mutton stew	@10
Sheep tongues, each.....	@ 4
Sheep heads, each.....	11½@12

FROM CENTRAL IDAHO

Sheep have done well here at Kuna where we are located. We are getting everything in shape for the spring lambing. There is abundance of feed in this section and if we have decent weather through February we should have a good lambing.

M. F. STEWART, Idaho.

FEW LAMBS ON FEED

A careful survey of lamb feeding in Idaho shows about 45,000 lambs being fed in that state against 100,000 a year ago. Hay was very high, \$15 a ton at lamb buying time, and feeders simply would not take a chance at such prices. Probably most of these lambs will move to Pacific Coast markets and go out about two or three cars at a time just as they are finished. Coast buy-

ers are now making offers on these lambs.

In Idaho are several lots of old ewes being fed, probably a few more than usual. Some of these are ewes that on account of poor railroad service did not get out of the state last fall.



"SAN PETER"

at head of W. D. Candlands flock
Mt. Pleasant, Utah.
400 Rams for 1919.

EXPERT Sheep Foreman

"Wanted: Position as ranch foreman or resident manager of a real sheep ranch. Last position as manager of 16,000-acre ranch, handling 8,500 head of sheep and 400 head of cattle. Marked 102 per cent of lambs from 6000 ewes: winter losses from October to June, six-tenths of one per cent; sheep sheared 10% lbs. Sold over 3,200 lambs from 3,300 ewes bred for mutton lambs. Am a good organizer of men. Am 29 years old, 6 ft. 1 inch tall. Discharged from U. S. army Dec. 31."

Apply Foreman,
NATIONAL WOOL GROWER,
Salt Lake City.

COLORADO SHEEP RANCH. FOR SALE.

440 Acres, well fenced, all bottom land. Cuts 450 tons hay. Good water rights and running water for stock. Good range rights for cattle and sheep on Gunnison National Forest. Address

J. W. McDONALD,
Doyleville, Colo.

WANTS RAMS

Sheep extension activities in Louisiana have resulted in numerous calls for serviceable, purebred field rams. They cannot be found in sufficient numbers in this state. In case calls continue to come in, some concerted effort may be made to secure a deck or more of field rams from some other source; they should be Hampshires, Shropshires, Rambouillets and C-type American Merinos. An occasional Dorset may be demanded by some farmer. In Louisiana the breeding season begins as early as the last of July; Louisiana farmers and sheepmen should buy rams not later than June.

Sheepmen who have serviceable young field rams, purebred, and for sale at prices justifying their use by small farmers on native scrub stock should communicate with this office so that their offerings may be listed. Only healthy, strong stock can be recommended to these buyers, for Louisiana conditions demand good health. Stock should be described and priced, f. o. b. your railroad station, either singly crated or in lots.

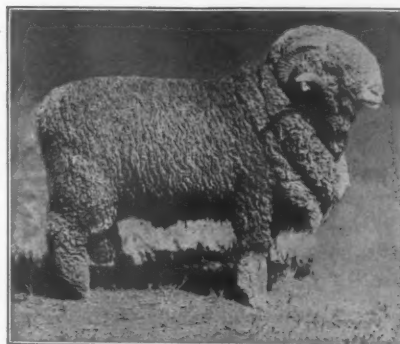
There will be a meeting of the Louisiana Sheepraisers' Association in connection with the Southern Cattle-men's Convention in New Orleans next month.

G. P. WILLIAMS,
Extension Sheep Husbandman,
Baton Rouge, La.

SOUTH OMAHA MARKET

As was generally expected receipts of sheep and lambs during January fell considerably short of a year ago, the total for the month being 203,568 head or 40,000 less than in January, 1918. Aside from the receipts, however, the conditions surrounding were generally bearish in as much as the government was out of the wool market and the unseasonably mild weather that prevailed throughout the country had a tendency to cut down the consumption of mutton.

The market was rather nervous throughout, responding sharply to heavy or light receipts from day to



One of My Stud Rams

CALIFORNIA RAMBOUILLETS

My Rambouillets are large, smooth and well covered with heavy fleeces of long white wool. They are bred in a high, dry country and are very hardy. I have 2000 one and two-year-old rams for this season. If you visit California, call and see my flocks. My prices are reasonable and my rams will suit the range country.

CHAS. A. KIMBLE,
Hanford, Cal.



One of My Stud Ewes.



FOR 1919 I OFFER.

200 Registered Rambouillet Yearling Ewes
300 Registered Rambouillet Yearling Rams
100 Pure Bred Rambouillet Yearling Rams
5 Black Registered Percheron Stallions,
two and three years old.

W. S. HANSEN
COLLINGTON, UTAH

Rambouillets**A. A. WOOD & SONS**

Saline, Michigan

Hampshires

Stud Rams **RAMBOUILLETS** Range Rams



Our Champion C. Ram at Frisco.

We offer for sale a large number of registered Rambouillet stud rams and range rams. Will sell in lots of one to a carload. We invite your careful inspection of our flock.

TUCANNON RAMBOUILLET & STOCK FARM
Dayton, Washington

H. L. Finch

Soda Springs, Idaho

Woolgrower and Importer of

**COTSWOLD, HAMPSHIRE
LINCOLN AND SHROPSHIRE
STUD SHEEP**

Next importation leaving Eng-
land in January, 1919

REGISTERED LINCOLNS

New Zealand Blood

Also Crossbred Lincoln-Rambouillets

S. W. McClure
BLISS, IDAHO

"At the Old Clock Corner"



Utah State National Bank

One of the first members of
the Reserve Bank

Wool Growers are
a very important
part of our large
clientele. They
find the officers of
this institution
courteous, glad to
discuss business af-
fairs, and always
helpful.

OFFICERS:

Heber J. Grant, President.
Charles W. Nibley, Vice President.
Rodney T. Badger, Vice President.
Henry T. McEwan, Cashier.
George H. Butler, Asst. Cashier.

day but in the main closing quotations showed very little change one way or the other either for fat stock or for feeder grades. In fact the demand for feeders was much greater than might have been expected and shipments to the country during January were 40,755 head or nearly 10,000 more than in January, 1918.

It is evident that there is considerable feed in the country that sheep and lambs can utilize and that the country is anxious to buy both feeding and breeding stock whenever prices look at all attractive. There is undoubtedly an undertone of weakness through the market but the fact that receipts have been and are likely to be much short of a year ago has exercised a bullish influence and a further sustaining factor has been the prevailing strong prices for both cattle and hogs.

Current quotations are about as follows:

Fat Lambs and Sheep

Lambs, handy weights.....	\$16.00@16.35
Lambs, heavy weights.....	\$15.75@16.00
Lambs, culls	\$ 9.00@14.00
Yearlings	\$12.00@12.50
Wethers	\$10.00@12.25
Ewes, good to choice.....	\$ 9.50@10.50
Ewes, fair to good.....	\$ 8.00@ 9.50
Ewes, poor to fair.....	\$ 6.00@ 8.00
Ewes, culls and cannors.....	\$ 4.00@ 6.00

Feeders and Breeders

Lambs, good to choice.....	\$14.00@15.50
Lambs, fair to good.....	\$13.00@14.00
Lambs, culls and outs.....	\$10.00@12.50
Yearlings, light, choice.....	\$ 9.50@10.00
Yearlings, fair to good.....	\$ 9.00@ 9.50
Wethers	\$ 8.50@10.50
Ewe lambs, good to choice.....	\$14.00@16.50
Ewe lambs, fair to good.....	\$10.00@14.00
Ewes, bred	\$ 9.00@13.00
Ewes, feeders	\$ 6.00@ 8.90
Ewes, culls	\$ 4.50@ 6.00

SPECULATE ON 1919 PRICES

Radical difference of opinion exists among all classes of live stock traders concerning the probable course of 1919 markets. Speculation is considered ill-advised and unusually dangerous, but is nevertheless being indulged in.

Just how long the Food Administration will keep its prop under the hog market defies prediction but resultant high cost of pork is undoubtedly exerting a favorable influence on beef and mutton. The course of the cattle market will be determined largely by government purchasing, but England, the best meat customer of the United States, will buy in diminishing quantities as demobilization proceeds. Cattle are known to be scarce, the stocker market being an unfailing barometer, but the country is full of hogs and high prices have restricted consumption. Every warehouse in the country is full of hog product and unless Europe buys the surplus a serious distribution situation will soon develop.

For the next ninety days there will be no excess supply of lamb or mutton at the market; early lambs of the new crop will doubtless get a favorable reception, although many in the trade are of the opinion that few "springers" will sell above \$16. The Southern crop will start early and promises to come in good condition. About the same number of early Western lambs is expected, but what will happen to the main crop in September, October and November is anybody's guess, one forecast being as valuable as another. The Western breeder is threatened with competition by native lambs that may adversely affect net results. A better opportunity for gambling has rarely existed.

J. E. P.

NOT PAID FOR WOOL

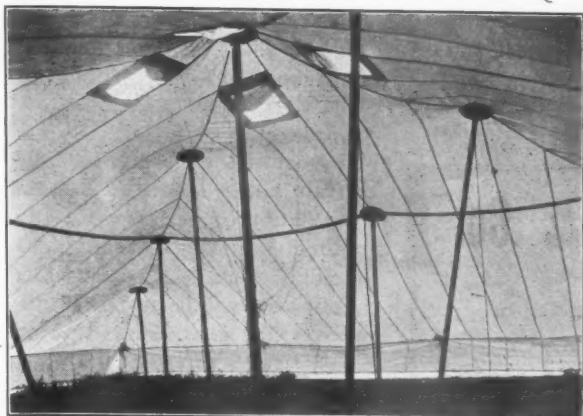
We are having wet, snowy weather. The sheep are doing fairly well. We are feeding cotton cake and nearly everyone is feeding hay or cake. We have never received our wool money and don't like the way someone is doing. I hope it will be better next year. That is why I want the Wool Grower—to find out. If things don't change I am going to sell out, I have been in the sheep business since 1877, but I cannot stand the way we are being worked.

J. W. GARRISON, New Mexico.

The "Red Seal" SHEEP TENT

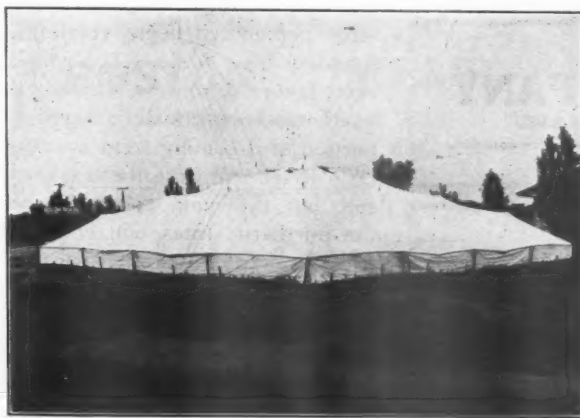
One of these wonderful portable canvas sheds will cost you less than FIVE CENTS per head per season.

10% Discount Since January 1st



DESCRIPTION.

Made of 12- or 14-ounce duck, as ordered. Fully hand-roped with best manilla rope. Size of Tent No. 1, 58 feet x 58 feet. Fitted with adjustable ventilators in roof. Stakes and poles, as shown in cuts, are included. Wall 2 feet 6 inches high. Jump ropes (or hold-down ropes) on each quarter and center pole.



Tent will weigh close to 500 lbs., taking first-class freight rate. Poles and stakes will weigh about 350 lbs., taking third-class freight rate. Two men can put up this tent in two hours. Tent is HIP ROOF style, which is the best style for strong winds.

Tent No. 1—58 x 58—for 1,500 sheep

Tent No. 2—42 x 42—for 750 sheep

Tent No. 3—29 x 29—for 400 sheep

Prices on application.

Address the

Schaefer Tent & Awning Co.

Exclusive Makers of "RED SEAL TENTS"

1421 Larimer Street

(Dept. K)

Denver, Colo.

"All Records Prove—

England and Walnut Hall

are two places where the best

Hampshire Down Sheep

can be obtained.

We will make careful selections
for you from either place."



ROBT. S. BLASTOCK

WALNUT HALL

DONERAIL, KENTUCKY

BRITISH EAT LESS MUTTON

While British imports of beef and hog product were enormous last year, consumption of mutton, a favorite dish of the average Englishman, was materially reduced. Argentine sent 629,291 hundredweights; Uruguay, 42,978; Australia, 26,168, and New Zealand, 1,144,668, contributions by other countries being 61,309 hundredweights. British imports of mutton for the year aggregated 1,904,414 hundredweights, against 2,454,000 in 1917; 3,418,084 in

1916; 4,520,626 in 1915, and 4,780,881 in 1914. Now that the Australian and New Zealand accumulation is available England will reinstate mutton in its dietary and purchase American pork more sparingly.

SHEEP PELT PRICES

Since the government has released the pulled wool the sheep pelt market has dropped several cents per pound. The government has sold a large quantity of its pulled wool at auction at a

loss, and since the real market value of the wool is established we can obtain on today's market the following prices for your pelts. Quotations from actual sales:

	Per lb.
Dry Flint Sheep Pelts	
Choice extra heavy woolled	35@40c
Choice full wl. light conl.	30@35c
Ordinary full wool	25@30c
Ordinary short wool	20@25c
Common short wool	15@20c
Long shearlings	10@15c
Short shearlings	7@10c
Clipped pelts	5@ 7c
Full wool pieces of pelts	10@12c
Murrain pieces of pelts	5@ 7c

Dry Flint Goat Skins—
Common goat skins, each.....40@90c
Kid skins, each.....10@25c

Your pelts will be sold direct to wool pulleries and goat skins to tanners.

C. J. MUSTION WOOL COMMISSION COMPANY,

Kansas City, Mo.



Farnsworth, Stevenson & Co.

Established 1848

WOOL

Special Attention Given to Consignments

116-122 FEDERAL STREET

BOSTON, MASS.

Hinie Klecker Sheep Commission Co.

—We Buy and Sell Sheep Exclusively—

612-24 LIVE STOCK EXCHANGE

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

ATTENTION WOOL GROWERS

SALTER BROTHERS & COMPANY

WOOL BROKERS—216 SUMMER STREET, BOSTON, MASS.

Solicits wool shipments for direct sale to the mills. Always sold subject to shippers consent.
LIBERAL ADVANCES. BEST OF REFERENCES.

**EVERY WOOL GROWER NEEDS
AN ATTRACTIVE LETTER HEAD**

WE PRINT THE

National Wool Grower

THAT IS A SAMPLE OF OUR WORK

We will furnish a nice half tone and get you up an attractive letter head and envelope. It will help your business.

FOR PARTICULARS WRITE THE

CENTURY PRINTING COMPANY

W. G. ROMNEY. J. Q. RYAN.

CENTURY BLDG., 231-3-5 EDISON ST., SALT LAKE

A LARGE NATIVE LAMB CROP

During 1918 a heavy movement of Western ewes to all parts of the corn-belt and Eastern territory occurred, a large percentage being yearlings for founding farm flocks. The winter has been favorable and a heavy native lamb crop is practically assured. That portion of it coming from south of the Ohio River will have the market to itself, but the main column, raised in the northern states will come in active competition with Westerns and, as usual, numbers will exert a potent influence on prices. J. E. P.

CUTTING DOWN IN COLORADO

This season's sheep and lamb feeding in southern Colorado will be the lightest in many years. Not long since about 400,000 head were handled in the Arkansas Valley, but shrinkage has been rapid in recent years, high cost of putting on gains being one factor, although this year's heavy decrease was due to losses last season. The San Luis Valley, noted for its output ten years ago, has ceased to be regarded as a reliable supply source.

**CRIMMINS & PEIRCE
CO.**

Wool

—and—

Mohair

Main Office

BOSTON MASS.

281 Summer Street

Salt Lake City Office

1502 Walker Bank Bldg.

BRANCH OFFICES

Portland, Ore.,	Chicago, Ill.,
404 Title & Trust Bldg.	350 North Clark St.
Great Falls, Mont.,	Philadelphia, Pa.,
802 First Natl. Bank Bldg.	120 So. Front St.
San Francisco, Cal., 515 Monadnock Building	

FOREIGN OFFICES

Bradford, Eng.	Buenos Aires, Argentina
----------------	-------------------------

Save the Lambs



By docking your lambs with the Ellenwood docking iron you will have no loss of life whatever and no loss of weight from bleeding. More than one per cent of all lambs docked by the knife bleed to death and the loss of blood in those that live causes a shrink in weight that they never recover. By the use of the Ellenwood iron positively not a lamb will die and not a single drop of blood is wasted. By the use of this iron the lambs can be docked just as rapidly as with the knife and practically without pain.

These irons are now used by 70 per cent of the sheepmen in the range country.

**A set consists of three irons
and is sent for \$5.00. They
will last 5 years.**

ELLENWOOD & CO.

Red Bluff, California

Messrs. A. J. Hickman & Co., Halse
Grange, Brackley, England (late
of Egerton, Kent).

Exporters of all breeds of stock,
draft horses, beef breeds of cattle
and show and breeding flocks of
sheep a specialty. You can buy im-
ported stock cheaper through us than
in any other way, and we hope to get
your inquiry at once, so that we can
fit you out before this country is
skinned of good stock, as it soon will
be now that the war is over.

A. J. Knollin

Box 478 Pocatello, Idaho

Breeder of

PURE BRED LIVE STOCK

Established Flocks of Sheep.

ROMNEYS
OXFORDS
LINCOLNS
COTSWOLDS
HAMPSHIRE
SHROPSHIRE
RAMBOUILLETS
BELGIAN HORSES

SHORTHORN CATTLE
BERKSHIRE HOGS

A splendid lot of yearling rams of
all breeds except Romneys (Rom-
ney lambs all sold) for 1919
trade, also a few ewes. Order
early.

Sheep shipped to 22 States in sea-
son of 1918, as follows:

Washington	Missouri
Oregon	Iowa
California	Illinois
Idaho	Tennessee
Utah	Mississippi
Montana	Massachusetts
North Dakota	New Hampshire
Wyoming	Connecticut
Colorado	Maine
Nebraska	Kentucky
Kansas	Nevada

209 Purchasers.

LATE WINTER

TRADE PROSPECTS

Danger of excessive receipts of Col-
orado lambs during March and April
confronts the trade. Fortunately the
Colorado crop is small, otherwise feed-
ers would be confronted with a dis-
agreeable prospect. Colorado filled
up late with light lambs, consequently
few showed up at the market in Jan-
uary and the visible supply for Febru-
ary is small. The light January run
was a fortunate circumstance as mild
weather restricted consumption and a
normal supply would have intensified
demoralization. Fortunately feeding
east of the Missouri River is of limited
volume, January affording an oppor-
tunity to clean up the tail end of the
enormous crop of Western stuff that
went into Iowa, Illinois and Indiana
last fall. A January run of 461,000 at
Chicago, against 289,335 last year tells
the story of how these states bought
lambs last fall to avoid the expense of
corn husking. Ovine harvesters did
their work well, but prevalence of
scab militated against maximum gains
and has put feeders in a mood to take
nothing next year that has not been
dipped. As the Colorado run will be
bunched during a brief period, Chicago
will get a generous slice of the crop,
otherwise the bulk of it would be
stopped at the Missouri River.

Dressed trade prospects are improv-
ing. Philadelphia was in the market
late in January, paying \$16.85@17 for
choice lambs, a little competition of
that nature always exerting a healthy
influence. Regardless of dressed trade
conditions packers always embrace
every opportunity to take off some-
thing, the trade being emphatically of
the opinion that receipts are distrib-
uted on a percentage basis, the division
week after week making the coinci-
dence theory illogical. One fact not to
be overlooked is that pork is not cheap,
which gives lamb and mutton a stand-
ing impossible otherwise. The Food
Administration is resolutely maintain-
ing the hog market on a basis that
would be impossible if the law of sup-
ply and demand had not been sus-

pending, other meats getting the bene-
fit. As J. Ogden Armour asserted in
his testimony at Washington recently,
hogs would be on a \$12 basis at Chi-
cago but for the government stabili-
zation policy and that would have
meant cheaper pork. Beef is high ow-
ing to scarcity and government pur-
chasing, so that the only cheap meat
prospect is veal, a big dairy calf crop
being on the horizon. Good calves are
selling at \$14 per hundredweight,
which is out of line with \$16.50 lambs
and there is always a bond of sym-
pathy between the veal and lamb
market.

By the end of February packers will
have worked off their stock of frozen
lamb and mutton, put away during the
period of demoralization last fall, leav-
ing the decks clear for the reception
of Colorados. Indiana, Ohio and Mich-
igan will not be in a position to do any
crowding and unless Chicago gets a
slice of the Colorado crop it will go on
a semi-famine basis.

The late winter market will depend
to a large extent on the ultimate pur-
chaser, but as neither cheap beef nor
pork is possible, there is justification
for conservatively bullish sentiment.

J. E. POOLE.

ABOUT RAM SALES

Wm. Hislop

I have read with considerable inter-
est the letter by Fred A. Ellenwood in
your issue of January.

It has been my good fortune to at-
tend the last two ram sales at Salt
Lake City and I can testify to their
marked success. In 1917, when I went
to the ram sale it was with the idea
of learning how it was conducted, for
in June of the same year, Mr. E. F.
Benson, commissioner of agriculture
in the state of Washington, had asked
me to manage a ram sale in connec-
tion with the Washington State Fair
at Yakima, Wash. The trip was dis-
tinctly worth while, for Secretary Mc-
Clure accorded me every advantage to
study the management and introduced
me to many breeders, who might be
interested in sending sheep to Yakima.

The result was that a successful sheep sale was held at Yakima, in September, 1917, at which several prominent Idaho, Oregon and Utah breeders were consignors. In 1918, the Second Annual Washington State Fair Sheep Sale was held at Yakima and again proved to be a success. In 1919 the third auction will be held at Yakima, for range and farm sheepmen in the Northwest are keenly appreciative of the splendid economical returns accruing from well-bred, well-grown rams and ewes. In addition, Yakima is the logical site for a sheep sale in the Northwest inasmuch as it is the center of Washington's wool and mutton industry and is easy of access from Oregon and western Montana.

Several Washington breeders have attended the Salt Lake Sale annually, either as buyers or as consignors, but the majority feel that the distance to Salt Lake is too far and the shipping expense too great, consequently they support and encourage our Yakima sale. This decision on their part is a matter of geography not of discrimination. The sale in Yakima does not in any way militate against the Salt Lake Sale because it is held at a later date. Furthermore, it offers men an additional opportunity to study breeds and breeding, when they cannot arrange to attend the national sale and once the rams are their property, freight is negligible. Not only that but there are several breeders of sheep in the Northwest who have tried to enter their stock at Salt Lake but without success because the entries were closed on account of sufficient entries already received. The Yakima sale therefore affords these men a chance to sell their productions and saves buyer's time and expense in going to inspect the sheep. For these reasons, I cannot agree with Mr. Ellenwood that the National Ram Sale should be the only one west of the Mississippi and that all others only tend to hurt the sale at Salt Lake City. I believe most conscientiously that the sale at Yakima is for the best interest of the sheep business in the Northwest proper and therefore cannot do the industry as a whole one particle

of harm. The educational value alone of the Yakima Sale is worth the complete expense and effort connected with its accomplishment. More and

better purebred rams are needed and this is one of the ways that we have taken to make their introduction more general and at minimum cost, quality

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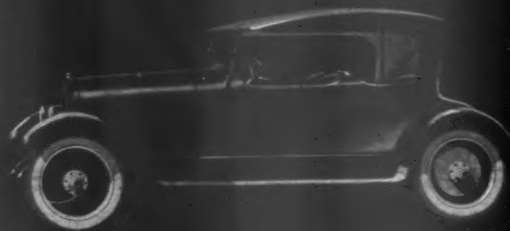
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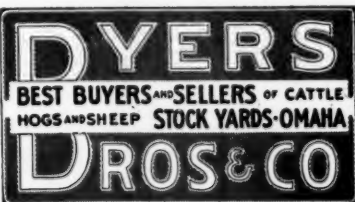
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to use so even if all the buyers were to go to Salt Lake to buy, some must leave disappointed and be forced to use seconds selected from those rams left on the home ranch. Then-again the advantage of seeing all the rams in one place would be lost, because type varies with the breeder thereof.

I hope to attend every future sale in Salt Lake City and will help make them an even greater success than they have already achieved but I cannot subscribe to the total extinction of all other sheep sales.

FEEDERS ARE TALKING BEARISH

Cornbelt feeders are in much the same attitude as were Colorado operators a year ago, when they went on strike, making an overplay as results show by holding out too long, the result being that thousands of Northern-bred lambs went to the shambles instead of into finishers' hands, forcing Colorado operators to invest in light Southern stuff. The crop of Western lambs that went into Iowa, Illinois and Indiana last fall has lost money in a majority of cases. Michigan and Ohio did not play the game and escaped unscathed. Too many lambs went into the hands of inexperienced operators and were not handled to maximum ad-

vantage, but that they were bought high is evident in the light of recent events and a play will be made this year for lower prices.

Conditions in the cornbelt last year were abnormal, feed being plentiful and money equally so, while labor was abnormally scarce, making corn husking expensive. Lack of adequate fencing prevented putting in stock hogs, lambs and sheep being the only alternative. Considering that corn was husked cheaply feeders have less to complain of than the figures warrant, but they are talking \$10 feeding lambs this season.

The cornbelt differs from Colorado in one respect, feeders being scattered over a vast territory making co-operation in buying impossible. And, what is more, a majority of farmers are dependent on neither bankers nor commission houses for money, as in the case of Colorado, consequently when feed is abundant they use their own judgment in buying. Stock cattle will be at the highest levels on record this year, which will favor the feeder sheep market; on the other hand less corn will be planted as Illinois, Missouri, Indiana and even Iowa have made a record sheep acreage. Feed is always the factor and if the season is favorable Omaha will develop another lively feeder market.

J. E. P.

WOOL BAGS

Wool bags are somewhat lower now than at this time last year. They are being offered in carload lots in Salt Lake City at 97 7-8 cents each. In less than car lots they are offered f. o. b. Portland, Oregon, at 95½ cents each.

FROM WYOMING

We are having a fine winter so far, and sheep are looking well. It appears now that we might go through the winter in good shape. Those rams I bought from the Cunningham Live Stock Company of Oregon are doing fine. I will try and be at your sheep show in Salt Lake again next summer, as it was fine last year.

JACOB MILL, Wyoming.

JANUARY WEATHER ON WESTERN RANGES

By J. Cecil Alter

This was one of the driest Januaries of record over most of the interior Western states, according to reports compiled by the U. S. Weather Bureau, though moisture was not so deficient in interior Washington, Oregon, and California. A fairly large area of the winter range was under snow at the beginning of the month, and the abnormally cold weather which prevailed over practically all states excepting Montana and the extreme Northwest, during the first half of the month, served very well to retain the moisture where it was most needed. The very small amounts of precipitation which came were therefore considered ample in most regions, though over large portions of western Utah, eastern Nevada, and locally elsewhere, the moisture need was becoming rather acute, as the warm weather of the last half of the month took away much snow. However, the general situation has been very well relieved by a good snow storm, with rain in California and Arizona, on January 31 and February 1-2; this brought especially heavy snow in southern Utah.

Utah—First two weeks were coldest of winter to date; last two weeks very mild. Driest January of record, being as dry as dry late summer months, many places reporting no precipitation, and all others reporting very small amounts. Cold weather favored retention of scanty supply of range moisture though later the need for snow became acute and perplexing. This condition, however, was entirely relieved quite generally, by fine storm of January 31 and February 1-2. Stock continues in fair to good condition.

Nevada—Weather abnormally dry, snowfall being generally inadequate for animals at large; conditions were relieved, however, particularly at the south, by a storm right at the end of the month and the first two days in February. Cold weather prevailed until middle of month; warm thereafter.

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**Order Rolled Shoulder of
Lamb From Your Butcher**

Stock fair to good, with considerable feeding.

Idaho—Temperatures unusually low until 15th; mild thereafter. Precipitation general, and at good intervals, but quite insufficient in amount. Still favorable for stockmen, though not good for men with hay to sell; live-stock grazing on wheat in north, and low range and farm pastures at south. Range poor on account of lack of moisture. Stock generally good.

Montana—Warmest January of record at many places; warm all month excepting New Year's day. Precipitation very light and ground continued generally bare. Occasional report of short pasture, but there has been little feeding. Stock generally reported in fine condition; they are fatter than last fall around Busted; moisture scarce locally.

Wyoming—Colder than usual first half, but warmer thereafter. Not much new snow fell. Winter range generally bare or only partly covered in central and southwestern portions and conditions there only fair to good; conditions generally better in east and northeastern portions. Snow disappeared rapidly during last half of month. Stock wintering well.

Colorado—One of the very driest Januaries of record. It was also one of the warmest, east of the Rockies and was abnormally cold west of the divide. Range feed short but absence of storms favored stock. Most stock in western part being fed, though very little new snow fell in Grand Valley; snowfall was heavier in extreme southwestern portion.

Texas (Western)—Practically the driest January of record, and abnormally cold, though bright and fine; few days warm weather toward last were helpful, and only slight losses reported due to weather. Ranges and stock continue fair to good.

New Mexico—Central and eastern ranges still snowbound. Losses of both cattle and sheep in southeastern quarter are greatest in twelve years according to reliable estimates, certain

sheep bands showing from 25 to 75 per cent loss. Deep snow prevented movement of stock or feed for first three weeks of month.

Arizona—First two weeks abnormally cold; warm thereafter and much snow disappeared. Month abnormally dry, and the general result was detrimental to stock, though with foothill ranges available locally, no serious suffering was noted. The continuous snow cover remained only over limited parts of the north central portion when the storm came February 1.

California—Range grasses were damaged by the long cold spell early in the month, and stock fell off and considerable feeding was necessary as a result. Ranges were good in northern and fair to poor in southern portion, though rains at end of month should help greatly. Warm weather latter half helped northern ranges. Stock reported in fair condition.

Oregon (Baker)—Many beef cattle shipped to eastern markets; livestock in very good condition; most stock being fed. Precipitation was ample as a rule, and fairly well distributed, and temperatures moderate.

Washington (Walla Walla)—A very open winter and much less snow than usual; valleys and foothills practically bare. Ranges very good and little feeding has been necessary. All stock in excellent condition. (Spokane) Precipitation was frequent and in fairly good amounts; temperatures mild as a rule.

A NEW RECORD

At Cambridge, Nebraska, last month fifty Hereford cattle sold at auction for the remarkable average of \$3,845. Never before in the world has so high an average been made for cattle of any breed, this sale having placed the world's record \$15 a head above the previous record. The top prices of the sale were \$21,000 for a bull and \$7,200 for a cow. A sale like this makes the average at the Salt Lake Ram Sale look rather small.

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Wyoming Experiment Station Bulletin 93

KEMPS

National Wool Warehouse Company of Chicago

advise following extra costs when crude Branding preparations are used:

1. Cost of mill labor in clipping paint locks.
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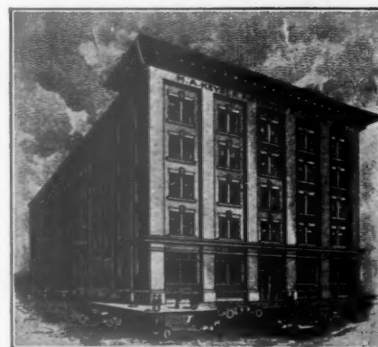
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CONSISTENT SERVICE COUNTS

To our many High Record Sales of former years, it is again our privilege to hold the High Record Sale for the year just past, to-wit: \$20.25 for Western Range Lambs—the highest sale ever made on any market.

The above record is one of which we are justly proud, but far greater is our pride in the High Average of our Daily Sales, for it is the CONSISTENCY of SERVICE that COUNTS most to the trade.

The knowledge that the Service and Salesmanship of Last Week, Last Month and Last Year, is yours Today, Tomorrow, Next Week and Next Year is a source of satisfaction not to be measured in words.

This is the Service we Offer. A Service recognized in the past as Able, Honest and Efficient and to maintain which standard will our every effort be bent in the future.

To such Service may we not hope for the continued liberal patronage of the past;—a patronage for which we express our most sincere thanks.

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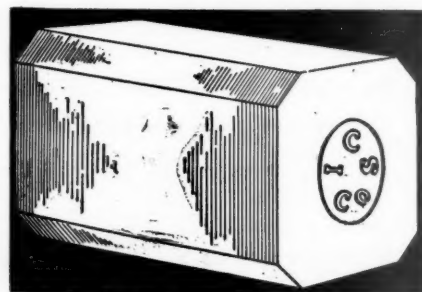


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THE RAM SEASON

Last season was the most successful one ever experienced by the breeders of Rambouillet rams. The demand for them seemed to be unlimited and all the yearlings were disposed of at good prices. Late in the season a few buck lambs were sold at good prices. The supply of Rambouillet rams for next fall will be somewhat larger as nearly all the breeders have raised a few extra.

The coarse woolled ram breeder did not have a good year as the demand for Lincolns and Cotswolds was only fair. A good many of the yearlings were sold but the demand for coarse ram lambs was only limited and most of them have been carried over.

Black-faced rams, Shropshires and Hampshires, were in no greater demand than coarse wools. Most of the black-faced yearlings were sold with only a limited demand for ram lambs.

More crossbred rams sold last year than in any preceding year and a fairly large stock is on hand for next year. However, the breeder of crossbred rams is in a rather unfavorable position, for this type of ram can be bred by anyone, and no doubt many men have mated ordinary Merino ewes with coarse woolled rams with the idea of selling the ram lambs. The only crossbred ram that is any good is the one sired by an extra good coarse woolled ram and out of a real purebred Merino ewe. About the only protection the buyer of crossbreds can have is to purchase only from breeders who are known to have the right type of ewes.

The inquiry for Romney rams has been very active but only a few were available.

A MONDELL BILL

Providing a rate of duty on wool sufficient to stabilize the prices of wool purchased, or on which a price has been fixed by the United States.

Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That whenever the president

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CUTTING HAY

All over Idaho, the sheepmen are cutting their alfalfa before feeding it this winter. With hay at \$10 to \$12 per ton and the cost of cutting around \$1 per ton they feel they are making quite a saving. Many Idaho sheepmen feel that they increase the feeding value of their hay about twenty per cent by cutting it and the sheep seem to do lots better. As a rule the hay is being chopped into lengths about one-eighth to one-quarter inch. Grinding is no longer popular as the cutting seems to serve the same purpose and is less expensive. In some cases the cut hay is blown into buildings but the most satisfactory plan for storing it seems to be a large tent which can be set up close to the stack and save hauling the hay to the cutter. The Schafer Tent & Awning Company, Denver, Colorado, makes a tent for this purpose and is much cheaper than a frame building.

We believe money is saved by chopping hay and certainly the sheep getting chopped hay look better than those eating ordinary hay. Of course, when lambing is done in sheds chopped hay is almost necessary as the other is too bulky to feed.

RETAILERS STILL PROFITEERING

A Chicago man took two Eastern guests to his club on New Year's day for lunch. It was one of those clubs where atmosphere counts, but shortage of sustenance is conspicuous in the dining room.

The menu quoted "English mutton chops" at seventy-five cents per dose. The party ordered three sets preparing its joint appetite for a gastronomic triumph. When the waiter brought two ragged pieces of meat hanging to bones on each plate, the host made what is vernacularly known as a "holler."

"They're English mutton chops," insisted the waiter. "You're a liar," retorted the Chicago man who, by the way, was acquainted with the game. "Take 'em away and fetch us a steak for three. We came here to get something to eat."

They got the steak, it cost \$2.50 and made a square meal, the incident explaining why the average diner out avoids lamb and mutton as he does not get a run for his money. Not only do restaurateurs and club stewards penalize this meat, but retailers levy outrageous charges invariably falling back on the stereotyped excuse that they must get their money out of the chops and legs as the rest of the carcass is unsalable, whereas these cuts sell relatively higher than chops when intrinsic value is taken into the reckoning. —J. E. P.

SHEARERS' WAGES

At the recent convention of the Idaho wool growers the question of pay for sheep shearers for 1919 was very generally discussed and the consensus of opinion was twelve cents would be ample pay. In fact in some sections, shearers have already offered to shear this year for twelve cents and board. It was the thought of the meeting that by shearing time, there would be an adequate supply of shearers who would be anxious to work at twelve cents.

ANNUAL MEETING OF WASHINGTON WOOL GROWERS

The Seventeenth Annual Meeting of the Washington Wool Growers for 1918 was postponed until January 10 and 11 this year on account of the influenza situation at the city of Yakima where the convention was held. However, on the above dates one of the best meetings was held in the history of the association. About one hundred members in all attended the meeting, representing practically 90 per cent of the sheepmen in the state.

The first session the morning of the 10th was called to order by President Drumheller who outlined briefly the problems that should come up for discussion at this assembly. The first business taken up was the election of officers for the ensuing year. By unanimous vote of members present, President Tom J. Drumheller and Secretary J. F. Sears were placed in power for another year.

The convention then drifted to the discussion of scabies, the outbreak of which appeared in one or two isolated spots in the state. The state live stock and dairy inspector, Dr. R. J. Donahue, stated that his department was handicapped by lack of funds for taking care of the situation as thoroughly as they would like. Leading from this discussion, a fund was collected from the wool growers on basis of \$5.00 per band, which was loaned to the state department of agriculture to put inspectors to work immediately to clean up the scabie trouble. The present session of the legislature will be requested to reimburse the association for the emergency money advanced.

Assistant forest supervisor in charge of grazing in the Washington Oregon forests, Mr. E. N. Kavanaugh, made the most interesting and instructive talk of the session. He outlined the policy of the government and explained present conditions under which the five-year grazing permits were to be handled.

The evening session was devoted to discussion of prices of wool. The fact brought out by a number of the larger

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Mention the National Wool Grower

wool growers was that net prices received at Portland on split shipments of wool were from five to ten cents lower than net prices received at Boston. This amounted to a considerable sum of money where growers marketed 100,000 pounds or more.

The morning session of the second day was devoted to discussion of the poisonous weeds affecting ranges and some advantages of various systems of herding sheep. This session was closed by a banquet at the Commercial hotel which was enjoyed by all.

GOES TO TEXAS

Prof. Robert F. Miller has tendered his resignation to the University of California as Sheep Specialist, to accept the position of Professor of Sheep Husbandry and acting head of the Animal Husbandry Division of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, to become effective January 1, 1919. Professor Miller was also secretary of the California Wool Growers' Association and has lately conducted a very successful sheep campaign in the state of California in placing a flock of sheep on the average farm.

The American Hampshire Sheep Association

Hampshires are the most popular sheep in the United States. They are the most practical farmer's sheep in existence.

Hampshires won first prize on carload wether lambs at 1916 International. This car lambs won Grand Championship over all breeds and all ages.

Hampshires sold at the highest average price at the National Wool Growers Auction sale in September, 1916.

The highest priced sheep sold at the 1917 Sale was a Hampshire.

The highest priced mutton sheep ever sold in America was a Hampshire in 1917.

The highest priced ram ever sold from the auction block in America was a Hampshire in 1917.

The highest priced car of mutton lambs ever sold in the world was a car of Hampshires in 1918, the price being 42c per pound, having beaten all previous records by \$7 per hundred.

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Comfort A. Tyler, Secretary, 36 Wood-
land Ave., Detroit, Mich.

SCAB EPIDEMIC IN THE CORNBELT

Serious outbreaks of scab in the cornbelt states have necessitated restriction of the feeder movement and rigid regulations as to dipping recently. Iowa sent a lot of scabby Western stuff to Chicago that was only half-fat and would have gone into Eastern territory for a finish had the dipping been possible during cold weather. As it arrived at a period, when prices were soaring owners were not hurt badly, killers taking the stuff at a discount. This outbreak will result in rigid dipping regulations next season probability being that nothing will be permitted to leave primary receiving points without being subjected to that process.—J. E. P.

FROM SOUTHERN UTAH

Our sheep are now on the Nevada winter range and seem to be doing well up to the present time. Feed is good, due, I believe, to our fall storms. We have had some sore mouth, of course. We expect that when we take lambs to the desert. However, it has not been serious.

We summer our sheep in Idaho and winter them in Nevada. One of our greatest drawbacks is going to and from the winter range. The country is so taken up by dry farmers that we are compelled to ship, and as freight rates are so high, it really works a hardship. It seems to me the railroads could handle this stuff for fifty per cent of what they now charge and still make a good profit.

C. P. TUCKER, Utah.

FROM COLORADO

We are having a fine winter in and around Montrose, Colorado. Sheep are in good condition and the range is very good—only about four inches of snow, just enough for the sheep to do well. The "flu" has been terrible here, but it has about disappeared now.

J. J. BAKER, Colorado.